Village Idiot Scanlations

color: powha

Hello everyone! It's that time again, VIscans is now recruiting (mainly translators)! That means if you are fluent in a language we need (and at least conversationally fluent in English) Japanese, Chinese, or Korean, or are EXTREMELY proficient in the use of the English language (we're only recruiting the best of the best of the best Proofers), or you're good with photoshop (Cleaning/Redrawing), apply now! We are starting up some new projects, and can always use more help to speed up the releases of our current projects. You can find directions at vi-scans.com/about/ And even if you don't apply, drop by #viscans on Irchighway and chat with us! We're a fun group of people who love to talk about anything, so drop by and start up a conversation!

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HOLIDAY

OTSUICHI und
Hiro KIYOHARA

MANGA & ANIME 漫画 adult

EGMONT

OTSUICHI und
Hiro KIYOHARA

HOLIDAY

MANGA & ANIME 漫画 adult

EGMONT

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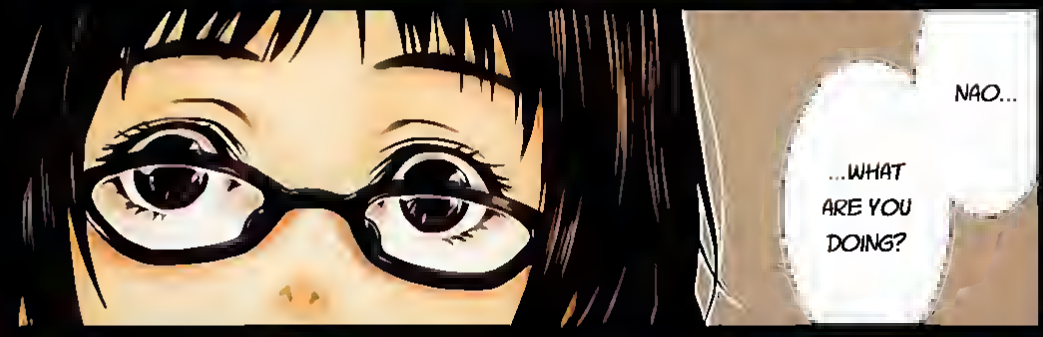
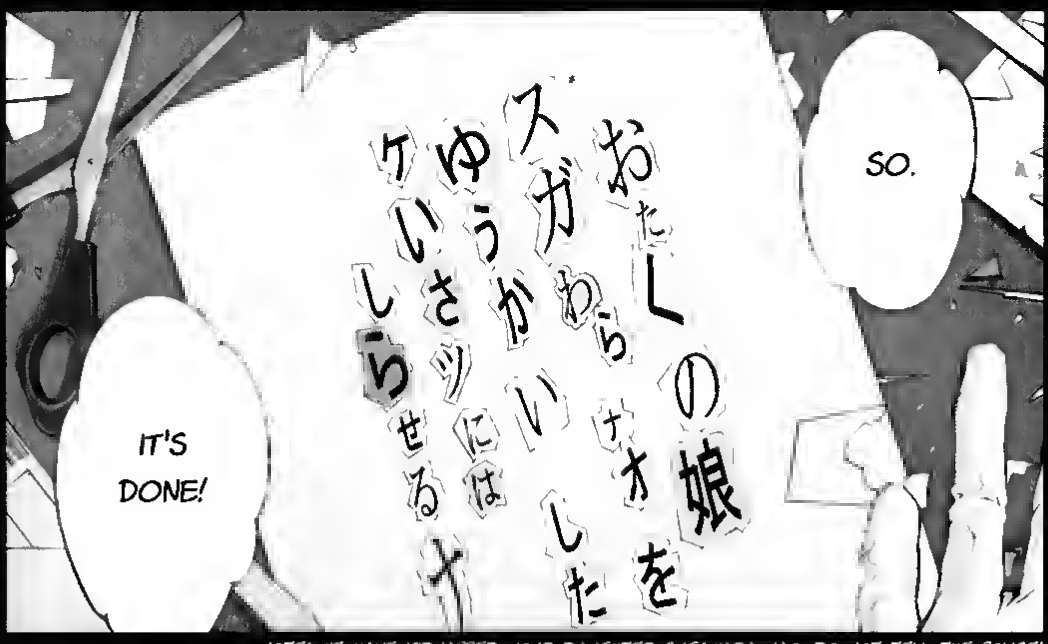
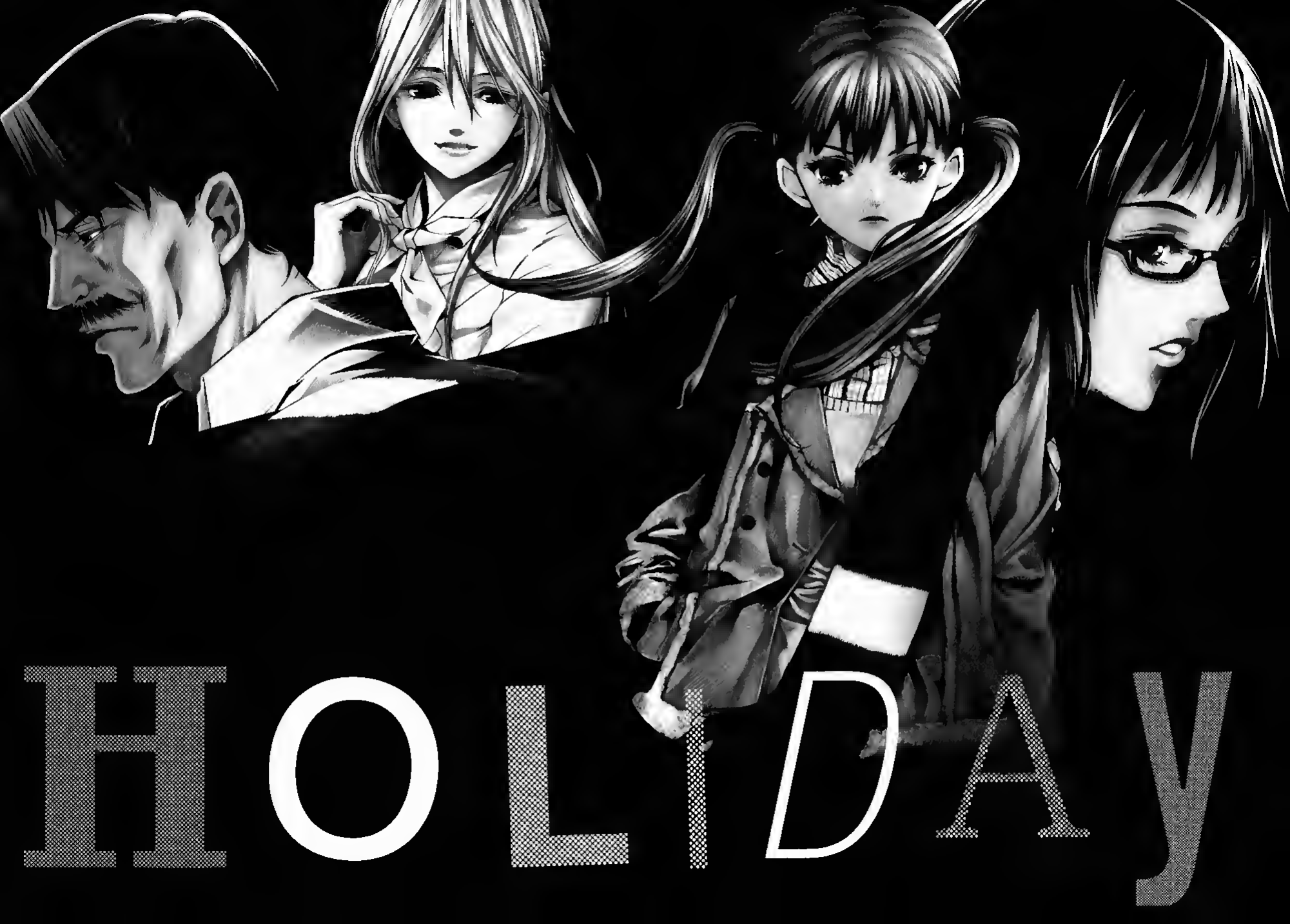
NOTE: WE HAVE KIDNAPPED YOUR DAUGHTER SUGAWARA NAO. DO NOT TELL THE POLICE!




SO.
おたくの娘をスガワラナオをしたゆうかいさツにはケいさつにしらせる
IT'S DONE!
NOTE: WE HAVE KIDNAPPED YOUR DAUGHTER SUGAWARA NAO. DO NOT TELL THE POLICE!

NAO...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'VE...
DECIDED TO GET MYSELF KIDNAPPED!


HOLIDAy

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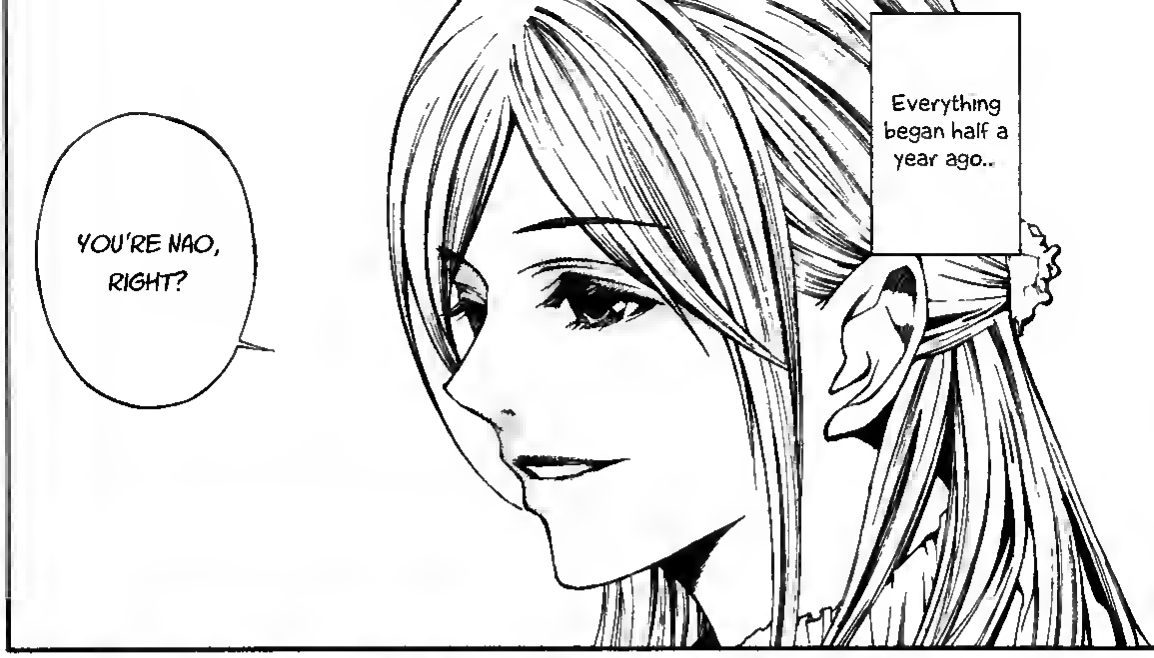
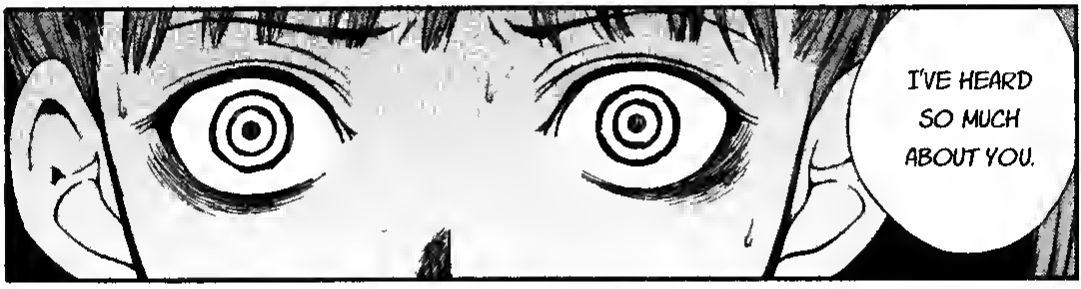
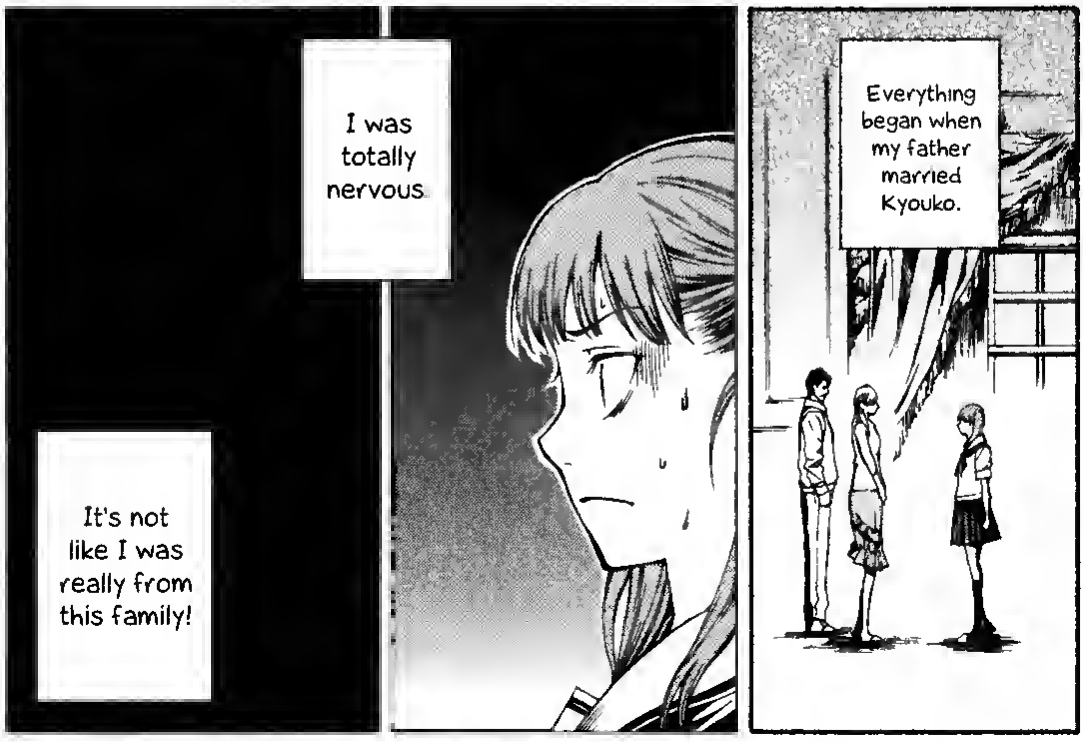
e s c a p e .

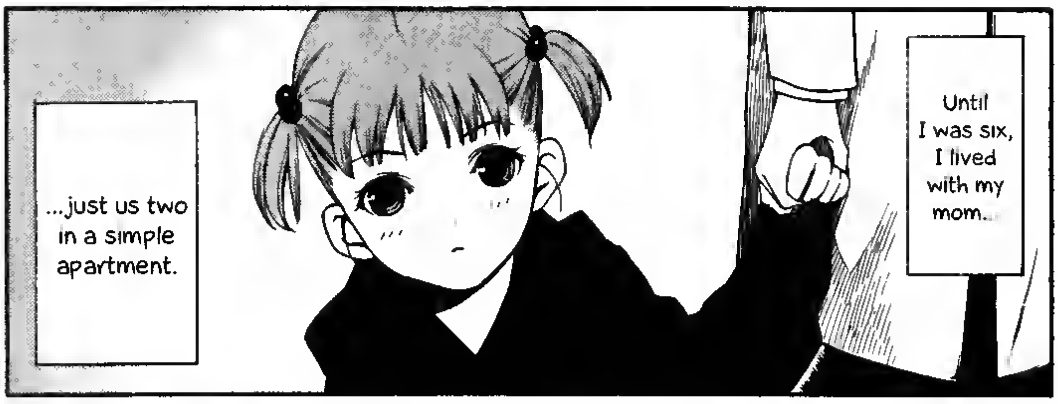
Village Idiot Scanlation
Translator: Eito
Proofreader/QC: TsunTsun
Cleaner: Hige
Typesetter: Edward

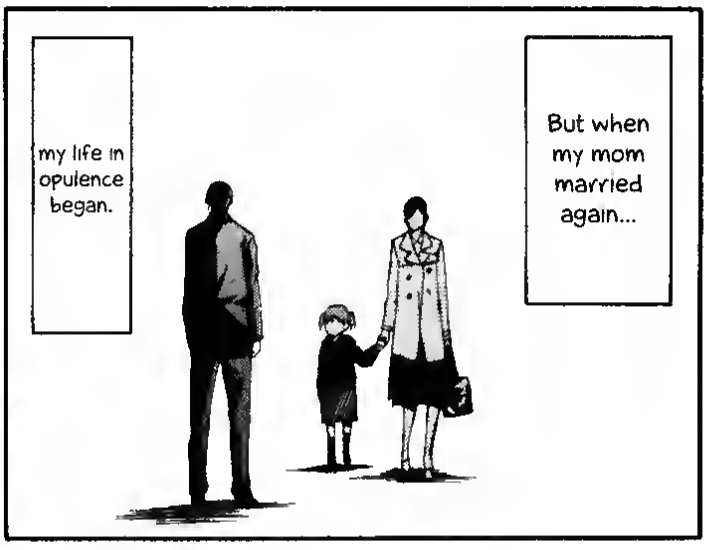
Ding Dong
NAO?
!
YES?
I RAN AWAY FROM HOME
EH?!
YEAH, IT'S OK, BUT... WHAT HAPPENED?
HUH?
I'M A FRIEND OF YOSHIMI'S CAN I STAY OVER HERE FOR THE NIGHT?


Everything began half a year ago..
YOU'RE NAO, RIGHT?

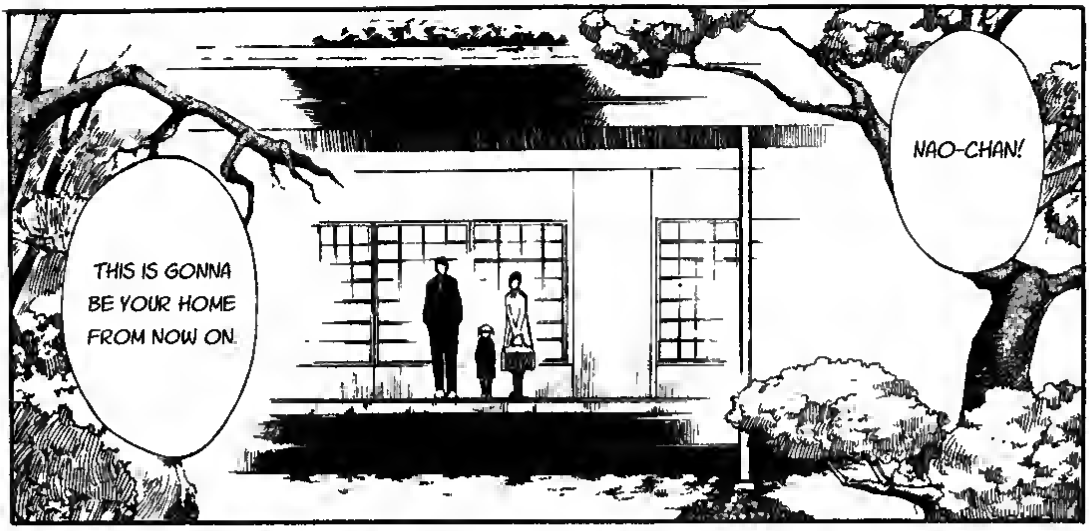

I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.


I was totally nervous.
It's not like I was really from this family!
Everything began when my father married Kyouko.

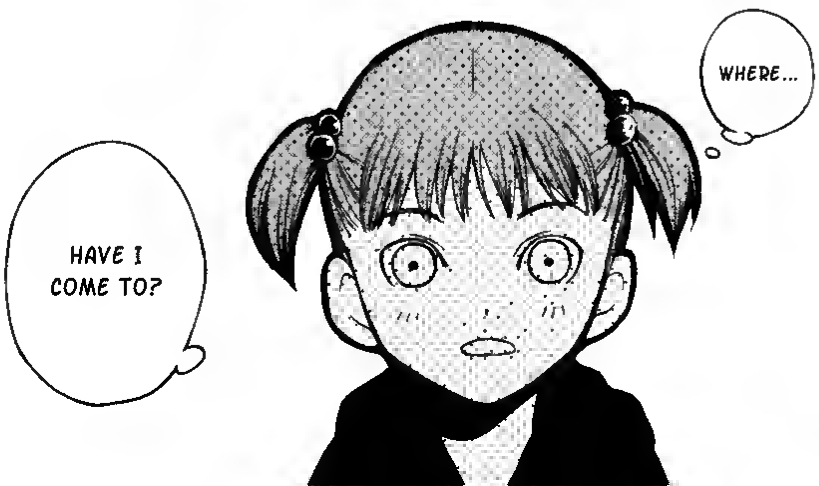




That was the birth of Sugiwara Nao.



It was a wealthy family with a long tradition.



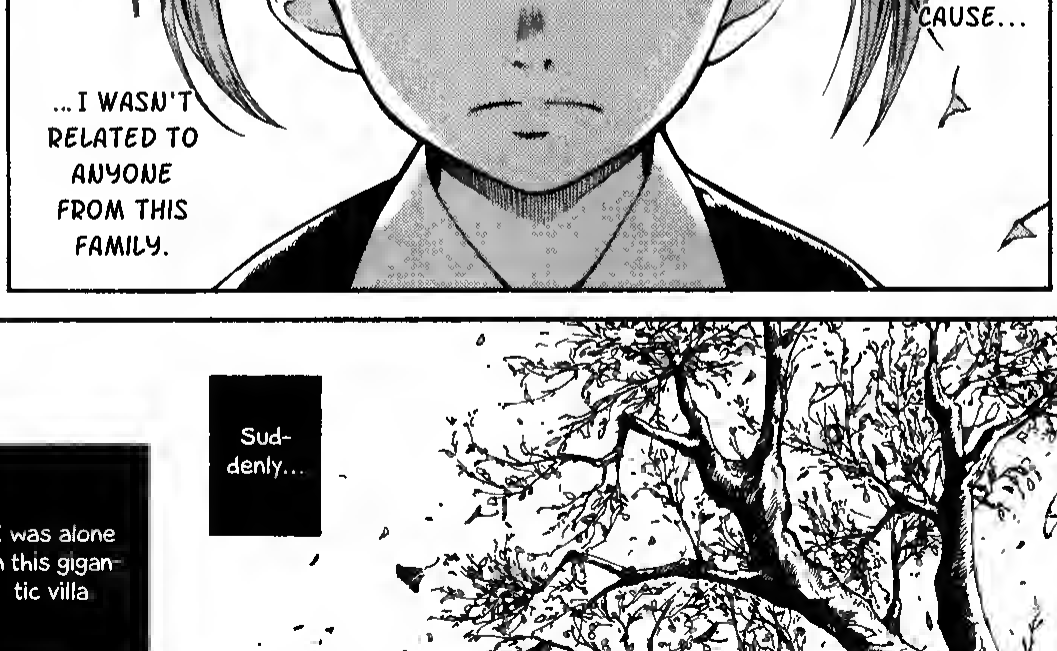
WHAT'S UP, NAO-CHAN?
WHO'S THAT?
HM. WHO DO YOU MEAN?
ERI-SAN!
THAT MAN!
She was papa's secretary and told me about many things.
REMEMBER THAT BALD MAN.
HE'S OUR PRIME MINISTER!
PRIME MINISTER?
YES! THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU GOTTA GET TO LIKE HIM.
HM.

HI HI... YOU'RE HAVING LOTS OF FUN AROUND HERE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S UP, MOM?
YES!
. COME OVER HERE
NAO-CHAN...

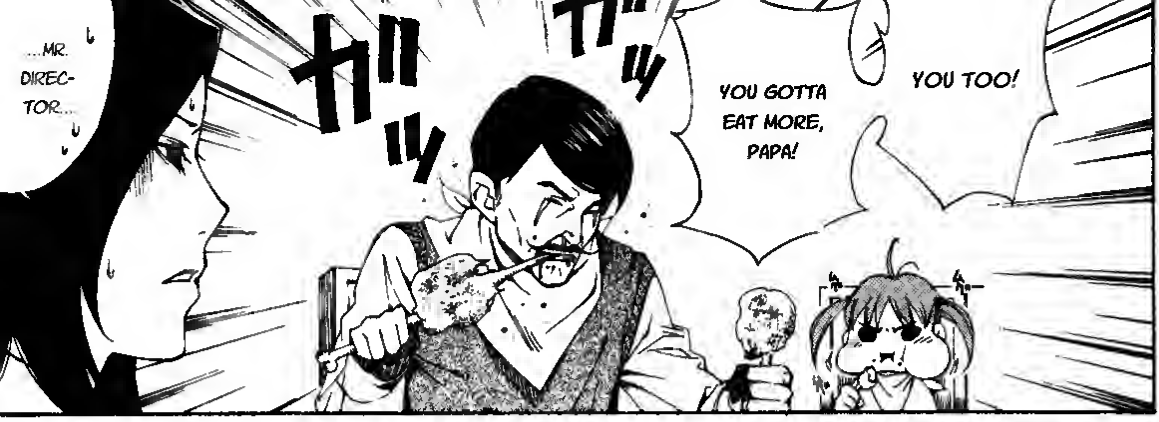
ALAS.
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THEY NEVER GET ANGRY!
THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE DO EVERYTHING I WANT, YOU KNOW?

BUT..
OH, SO IT'S LIKE THAT
YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS THEN.

TWO YEARS LATER SHE FELL ILL AND DIED.



THEY'LL PUT ME INTO A PROTECTORY!
I'M GONNA BE ABANDONED BY THIS FAMILY FOR SURE!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?!
So I came to a decision.
OH, NAO...
YOU'RE DESPERATELY TRYING TO GET OVER YOUR MAMA'S DEATH...
Hmm
GOTTA EAT EVERYTHING I WANNA HAVE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES WHEN I DIE!
GOTTA EAT MORE!
HUH?
HOW MUCH IS THIS?

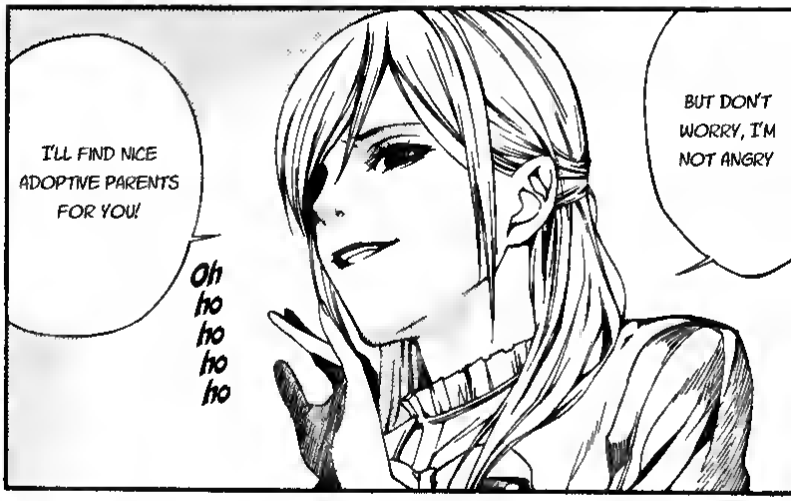


...I BECAME A SOPHOMORE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

HALF A YEAR LATER...

TSK, TSK, NAO-CHAN, YOU'RE...
...NOT EVEN A SUGIWARA BY BIRTH!
OH, HOW MOVING
PLEASE STOP FAWNING!
ME MEETING YOUR FATHER WAS SURELY FATE...
PAPA MARRIED KYOUKO, WHO I ALWAYS QUARRELED WITH.

He he he he he
Oh ho ho ho ho ho
Gardener
ARE HER SISTERS AROUND? THIS HARMONY...


I'LL FIND NICE ADOPTIVE PARENTS FOR YOU!
Oh ho ho ho ho
BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT ANGRY

IF I HAD SOME UNKNOWN POISON THAT EVEN THE POLICE COULDN'T IDENTIFY...
...I'D PUT IT INTO YOUR TEA, RIGHT NOW.
WHAT DID YOU SAY, MOTHER?

And then, on the twenty-second of December...
IF I HAD AN IRON BASEBALL BAT...
...I'D CRUSH YOUR SHINS.
KYOUKO, YOU BITCH!
WHAT?!
YOU'D HAVE A DEEP HOLE IN YOUR BREAST!
IF I HAD A PISTOL ON ME...
...I SHOULDN'T INTERVENE!
I SEE SOMETHING BEHIND THEM...
CALM DOWN! WHAT'S UP, ANYWAY?
!!

...
YES.
AND BECAUSE HE....
...SIDED WITH HER, YOU'VE RUN AWAY?
BUT SHE'S BEEN WITH YOU FOR HALF A YEAR ALREADY?
YOU CAN STAY OVER HERE FOR A WHILE, SINCE VACATION STARTS TOMORROW
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO UPTIGHT.
WHY CAN'T YOU MAKE UP WITH HER?
I DON'T KNOW...

LOOK!
NAO!
YOU WANNA GO THERE?
WHAT?!
THAT HOUSE?
SO IT'S...
BEEN ABANDONED FOR YEARS AND HAS BEEN EMPTY SINCE THEN.

GOOD THING IT WASN'T LOCKED!
I JUST WENT ALONG WITH HER...
IT'S GONNA BE CHRISTMAS SOON
THEY SAY THIS AREA IS DANGEROUS
LOTS OF PICKPOCKETS AND STUFF...
THERE'S A PARK BEHIND IT IT'S MUCH CALMER...
...THAN THE MAIN STREET IN FRONT.
I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM HOME FOR TWO DAYS ALREADY..

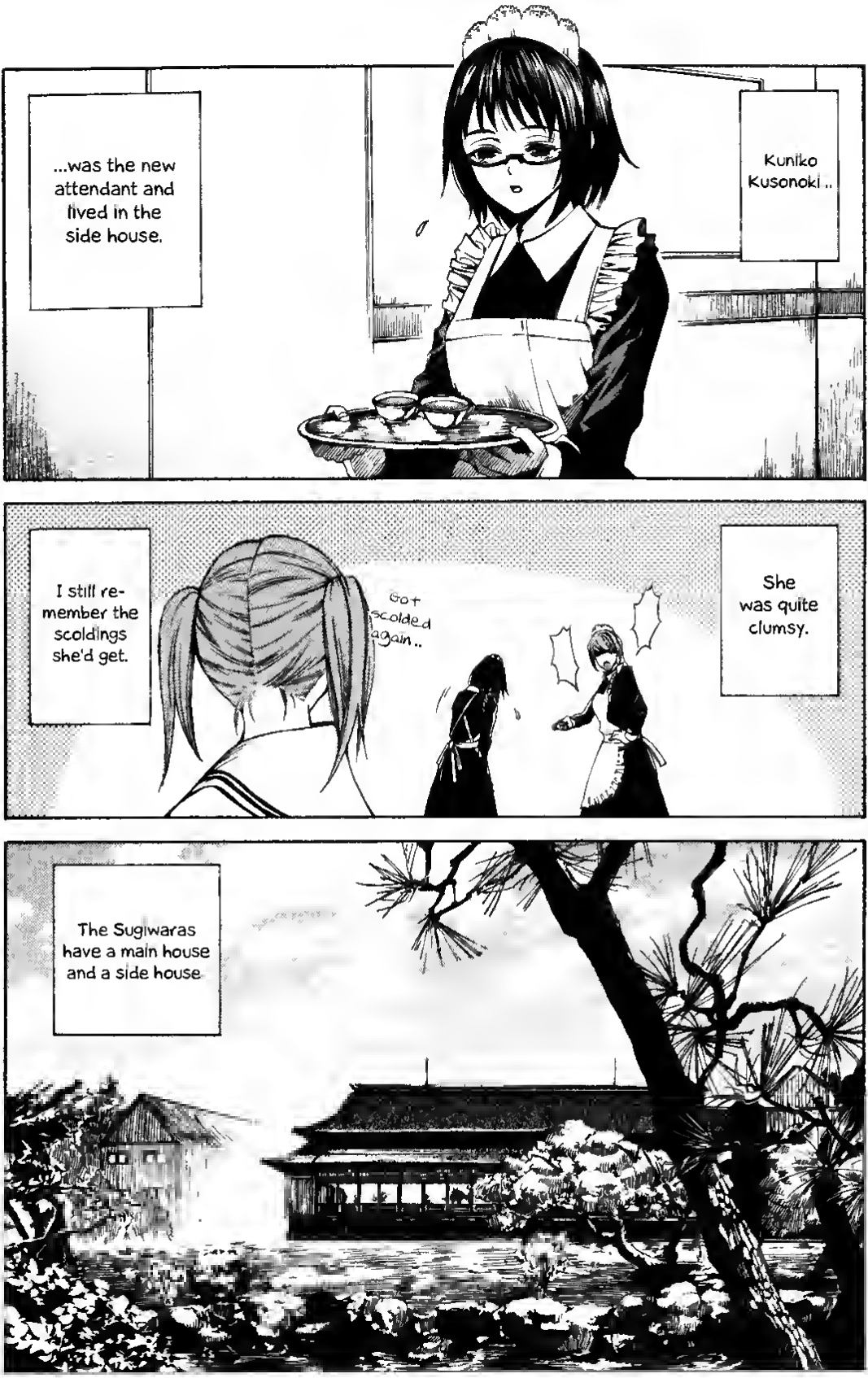
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK NOW.
!
MAYBE...
WHY ISN'T THERE ANYBODY AT HOME?!
...THERE'S SOME STAFF NEXT-DOOR...
WITH THEIR DAUGHTER HAVING RUN AWAY AND ALL!
ANYONE...
...AROUND?

AUGH!
I'M COMING
...
OUCH!
NAO?!
OH... KUNIKO-SAN, RIGHT?
SO...

...PAPA AND KYOUKO HAVE GONE ON THEIR CHRISTMAS ERRANDS WITH THE OTHER STAFFERS...
...IN A GLITZY LIMOUSINE WITH COMFORTABLE SEATS...
...AND A WINE BAR?
HMMM...
...YEAH...
...
...YEAH...
THEIR DAUGHTER HAS RUN AWAY...
...BUT THEY DON'T CARE AND THEY GO ON WITH THEIR CHRISTMAS ERRANDS?!

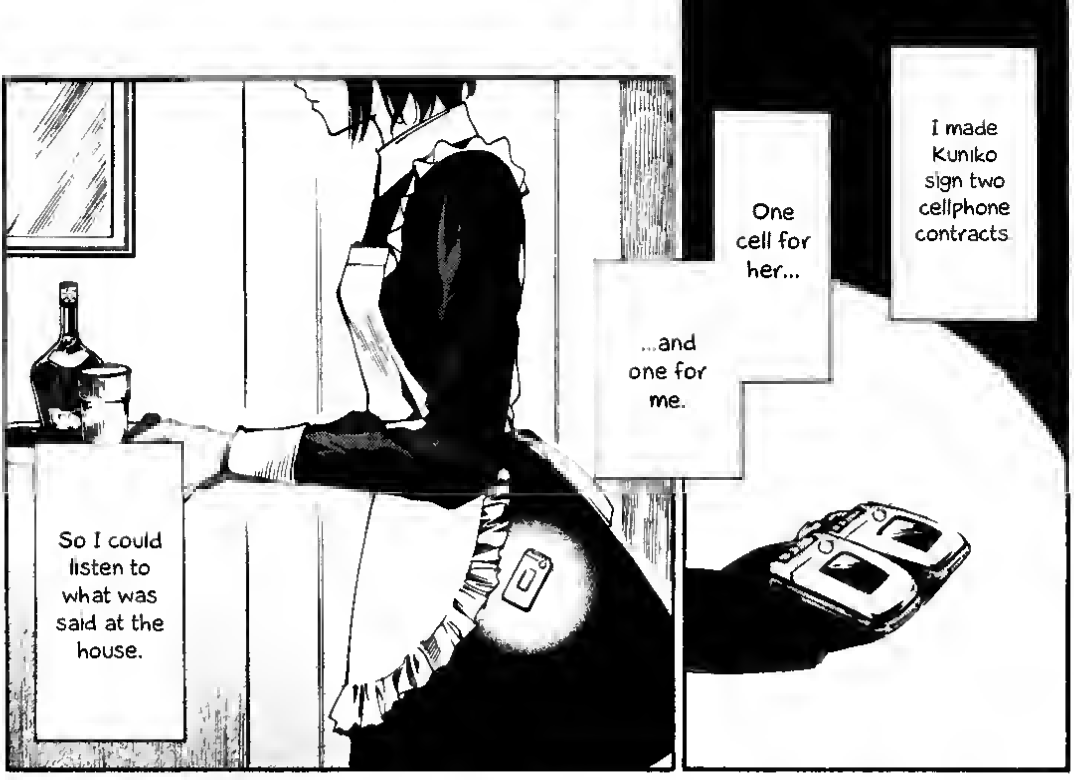
Oh ho ho ho
DAMN! I CAN ALREADY SEE KYOUKO'S GLOATING FACE!
?!
IT'S THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK TO HER?!
I HAVE A REQUEST.
YES...?
KUNIKO-SAN!
OH... THE MASTER'S GONNA COME BACK SOON, I'VE GOT TO GO THEN...
THEY DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEIR DAUGHTER...
...THAT THEY HAVE NO BLOOD TIES TO...
...

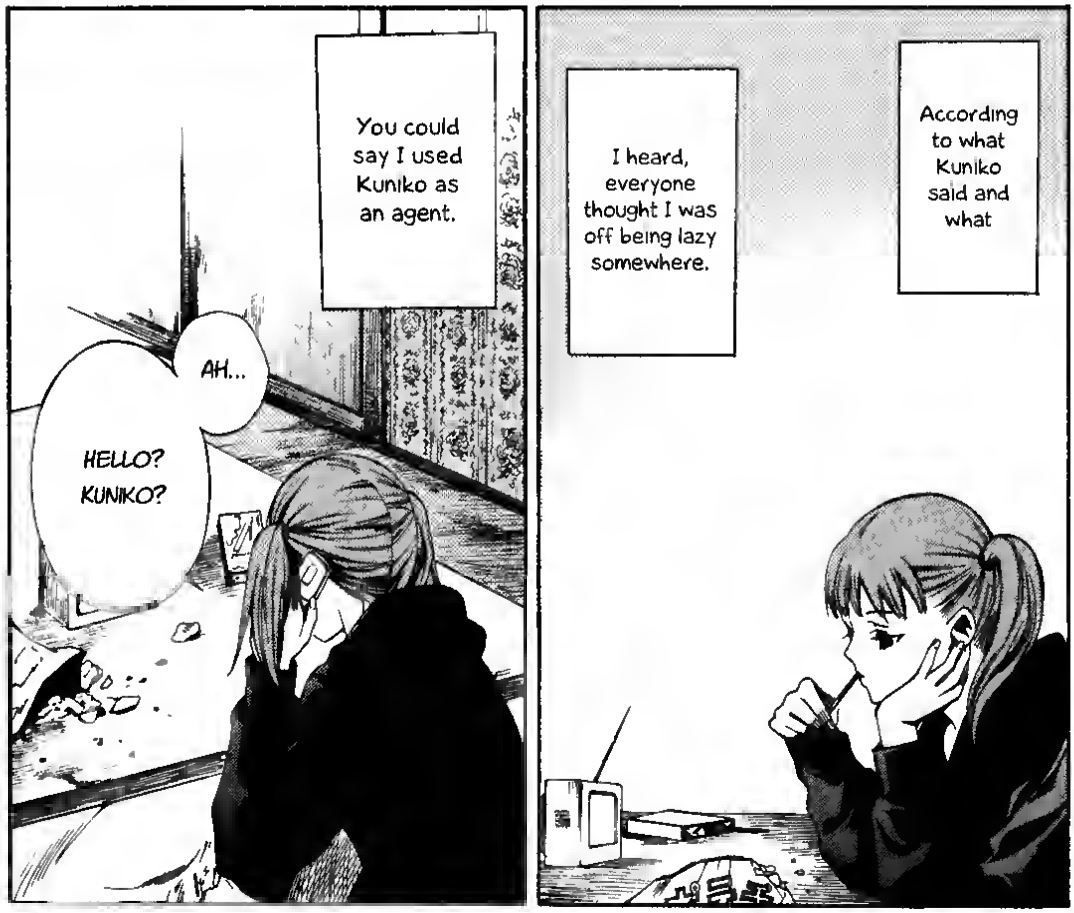
CAN I STAY IN..
...THIS ROOM FOR A BIT?
EHHH?!
HERE, IN THIS ROOM?
...
IT'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?
YOU WON'T OBJECT
...WILL YOU?!
IF I DON'T LET HER, SHE'S GONNA KILL ME.
IT'S OK..
THANKS!


...was the new attendant and lived in the side house.
Kuniko Kusonoki ..
I still remember the scoldings she'd get.
Got scolded again..
She was quite clumsy.
The Sugiwaras have a main house and a side house.

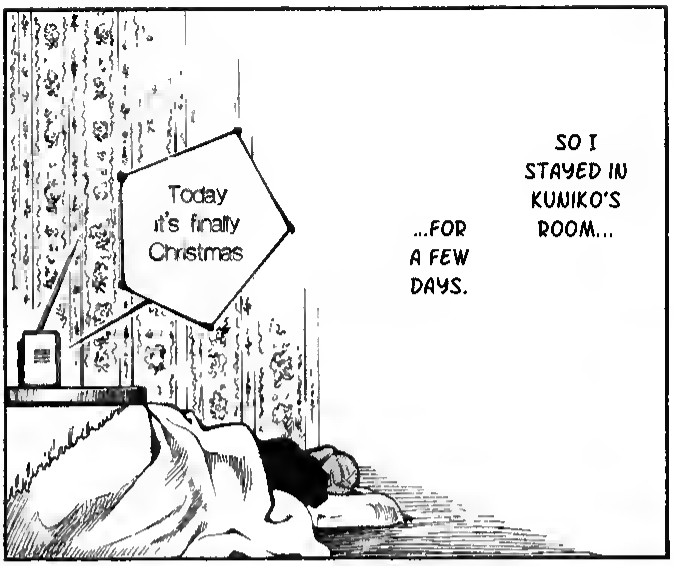
...IS REALLY TINY.
A KOTATSU AND NOTHING ELSE.
AND KUNIKO'S ROOM WAS VERY SMALL, EVEN FOR THE SIDE HOUSE.
THIS ROOM...
YOU GOTTA ENDURE IT, NAO!
IT'S PART OF THE FIGHT AGAINST KYOUKO!
YEAH, THAT'S HOW I'M GONNA DO IT!
IF I DON'T COME HOME, THE BLAME WILL BE MOSTLY ON KYOUKO.
I'LL THROW HER OUT OF THE HOUSE!

KUNIKO-SAN!
PLEASE BUY COOKIES WITH THIS CARD.
HURRY UP, DO IT!
...
HMM...
YOU CAN GO SHOPPING WITH A PHONECARD?
EHHH?!
SHE'S JOKING, RIGHT?!


I made Kuniko sign two cellphone contracts
One cell for her...
...and one for me.
So I could listen to what was said at the house.

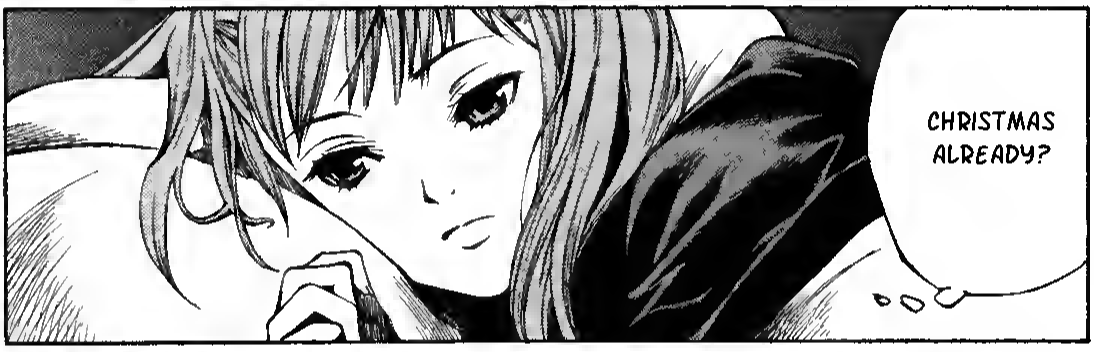

According to what Kuniko said and what
I heard, everyone thought I was off being lazy somewhere.
You could say I used Kuniko as an agent.
AH...
HELLO? KUNIKO?

OH...
...YOU CAN'T DO IT?
THAT...
...I CAN'T DO IT!
STEAL ME SOME DESSERT!
Ehhh?!
Wait...
BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIND A NEW JOB FOR YOU!
SEEMS LIKE THAT WON'T HAPPEN
WHAT A SHAME! I THOUGHT YOU'D KEEP YOUR JOB OVER THE WINTER
Wah!
Ok, ok! I'll get you some dessert!
TO RUSSIA?
TO NEPAL?
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO ONCE YOU'RE FIRED?



SO I STAYED IN KUNIKO'S ROOM...

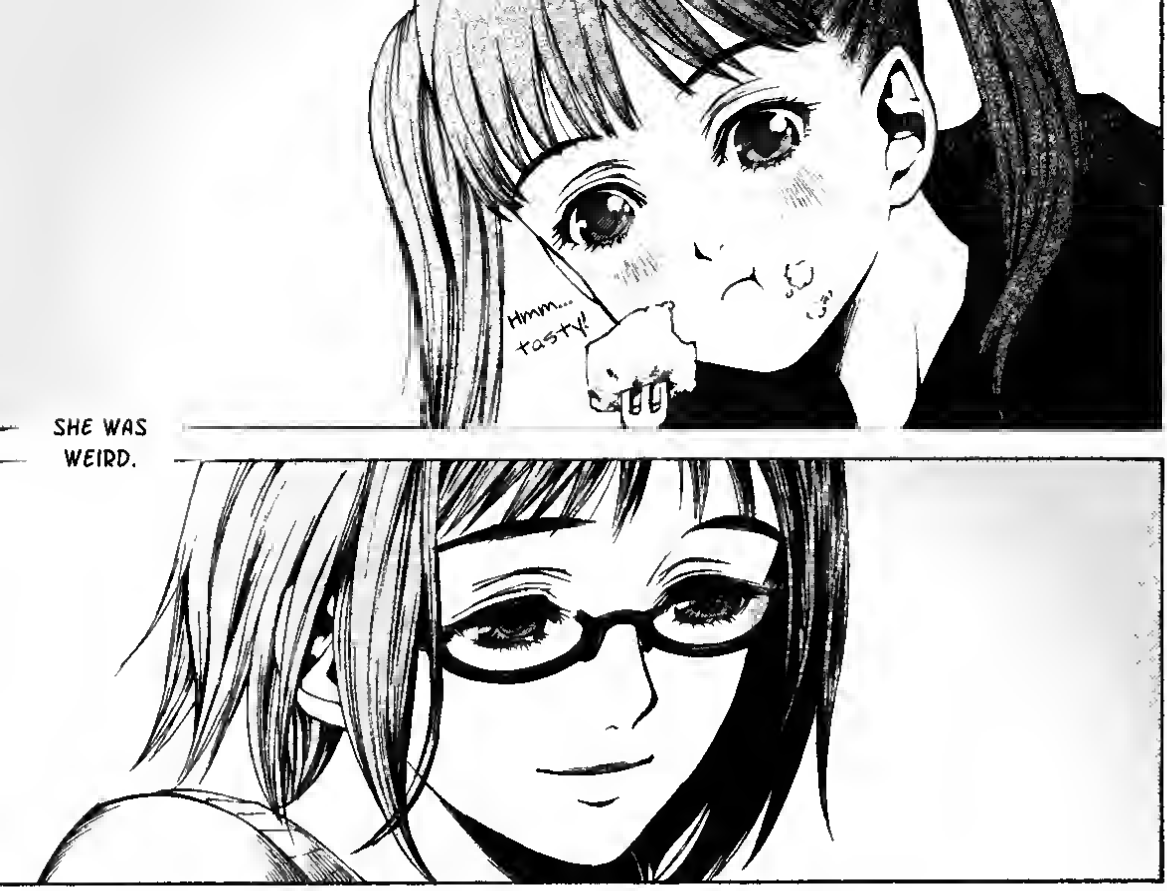
...FOR A FEW DAYS.



LIFE IN THIS ROOM...

IS ASTONISHINGLY NICE.

NAO!
AH...
...HERE, PLEASE...
IT WAS LEFT OVER.
GREAT!
MUNCH MUNCH
...

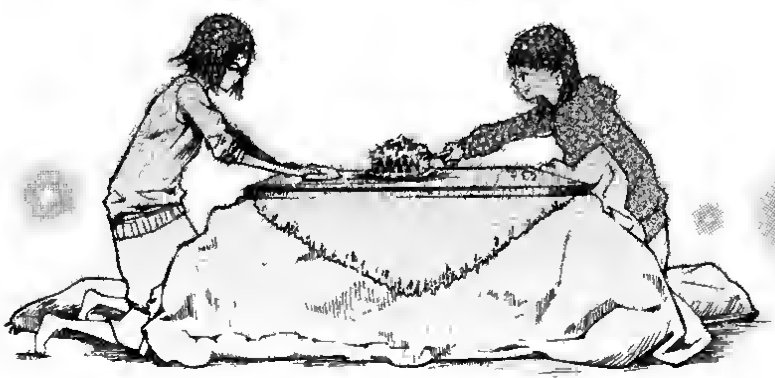


IT MADE ME BECOME CALMER AS WELL.

I LIKED HER CALM TEMPERAMENT.

BUT SUDDENLY...

USUALLY SHE DIDN'T SAY MUCH AND WAS SOMEWHAT PLACID.

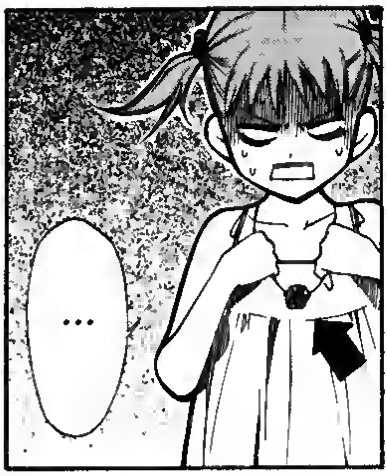


IT'S BEEN A WEEK ALREADY!
!
THOSE VOICES JUST NOW ..

IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK?
PAPA AND... ERI-SAN?!
AN ACCIDENT... OR MAYBE SHE WAS KIDNAPPED!
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED!
NAO HAS BEEN GONE FOR A WEEK ALREADY!
SURELY A RANSOM NOTE WILL ARRIVE SOON!
IT'S NOT NONSENSE!
KIDNAPPED? NONSENSE!
?!
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE SECRETLY PUT A TRACKER ON NAO

TEN MINUTES LATER...

THIS IS THE END!
...
おねんっ
?
THE LAVALIER?
SO THERE YOU ARE. THANK GOD!
I WORRIED SO MUCH WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU DISAPPEARED!
NAO!
NAOOOO!
PAPA... MOM?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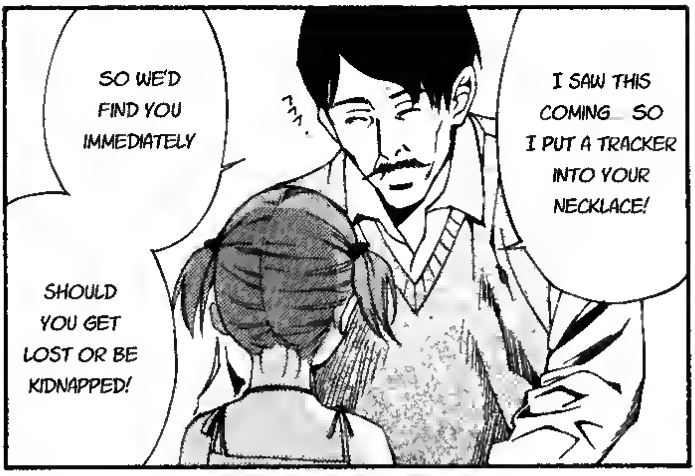
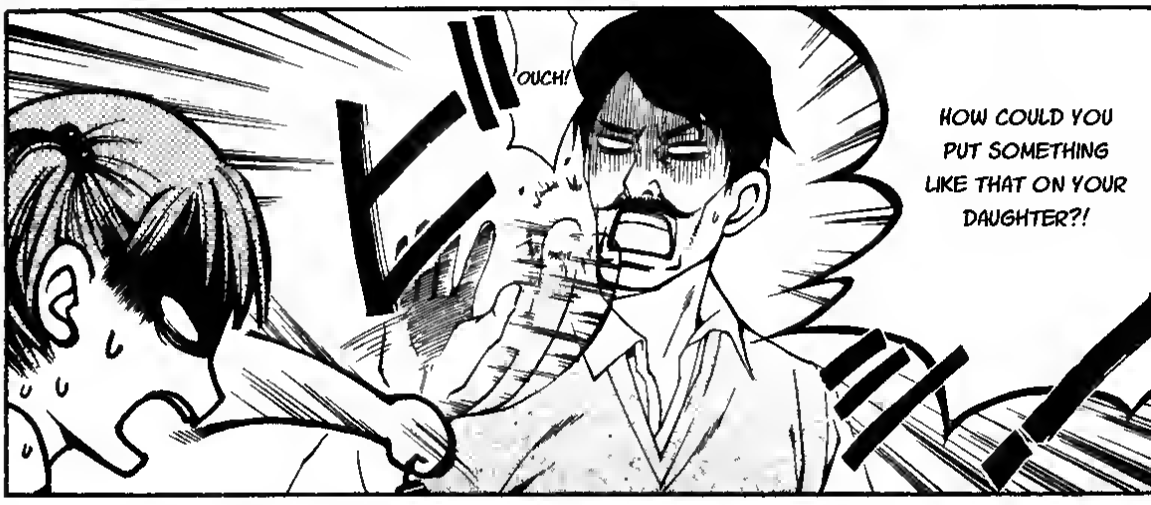
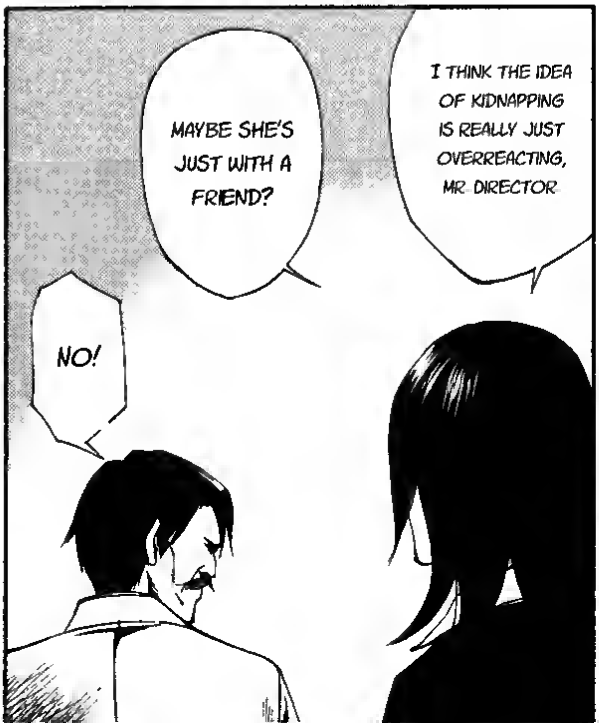

SO WE'D FIND YOU IMMEDIATELY
SHOULD YOU GET LOST OR BE KIDNAPPED!
I SAW THIS COMING... SO I PUT A TRACKER INTO YOUR NECKLACE!

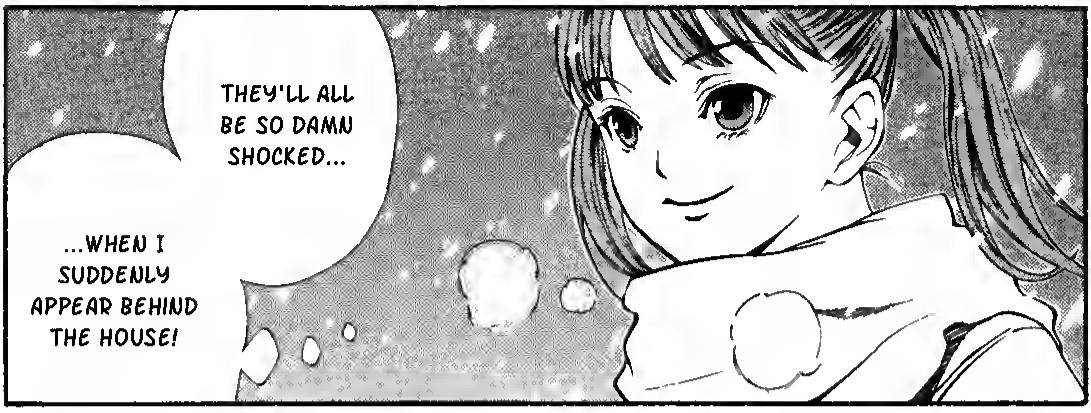

OUCH!
HOW COULD YOU PUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON YOUR DAUGHTER?!

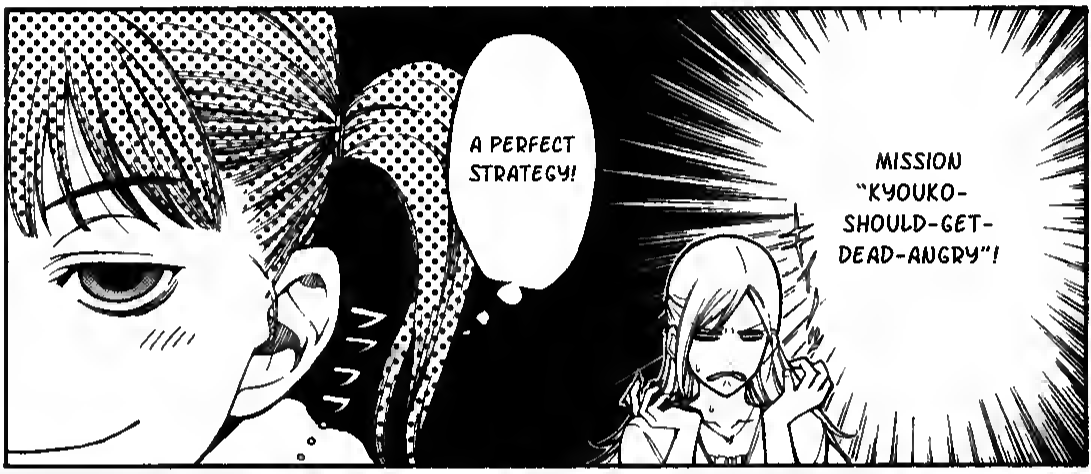

I THINK THE IDEA OF KIDNAPPING IS REALLY JUST OVERREACTING, MR. DIRECTOR
MAYBE SHE'S JUST WITH A FRIEND?
NO!

...THAT IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T PIN SOMETHING ON ME THIS TIME...
I'M SO GLAD...

I'LL...
...CALL THE POLICE.
POLICE?!
POLICE?!
I'VE ALREADY CALLED THEM.
SHE STAYED THERE FOR TWO NIGHTS AND THEN DISAPPEARED...
ERI-SAN! FIGHT!
HMMM...
YEAH, SURE! DON'T WORRY!
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
WAIT!
I'M SURE SHE'LL COME HOME SOON!
EXACTLY!
YES!
WE'LL WAIT FOR A BIT, THEN.

...
PAPA...
...AND THE OTHERS ACTUALLY DO WORRY...
I'LL GO BACK.
HEH, HEH...
サ"
"ッ
サ"
"ッ


THEY'LL ALL BE SO DAMN SHOCKED...
...WHEN I SUDDENLY APPEAR BEHIND THE HOUSE!


A PERFECT STRATEGY!
MISSION "KYOUKO-SHOULD-GET-DEAD-ANGRY"!

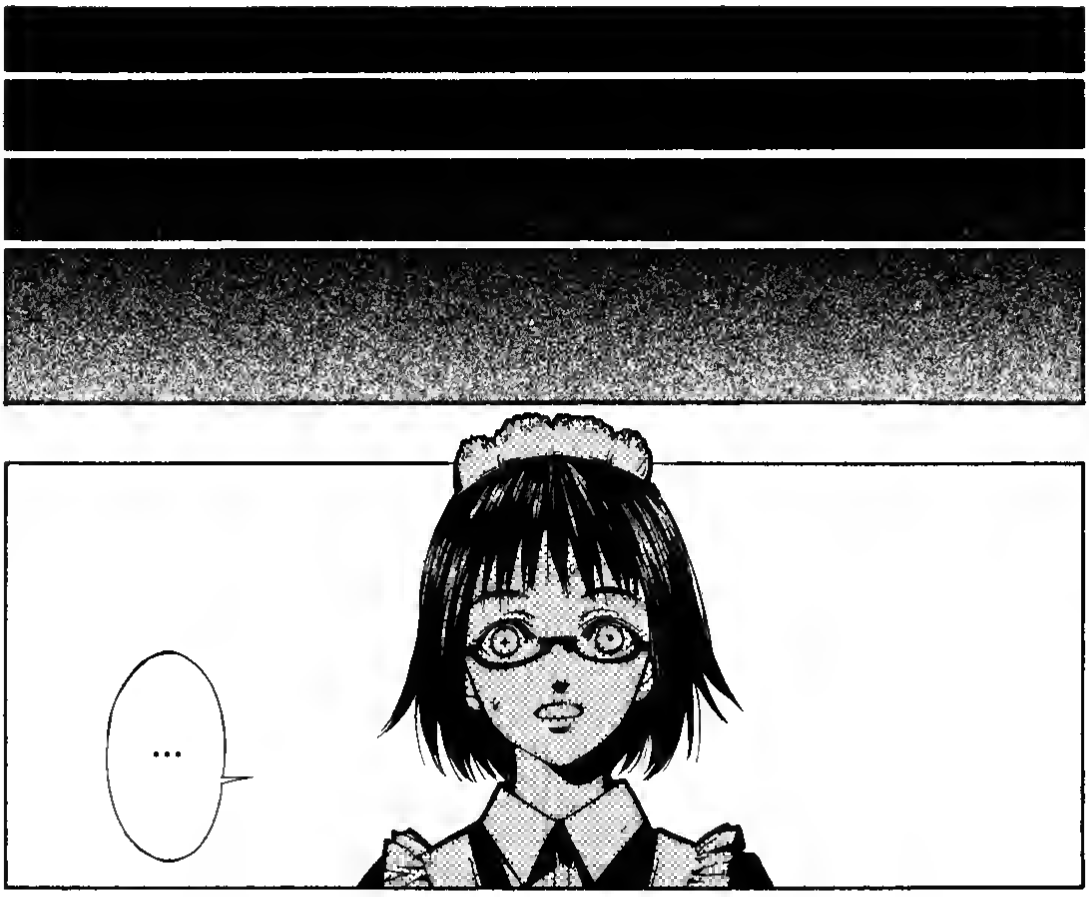
SO! IF I JUMP FROM HERE...

HEY, HEY...
AH HA HA HA!
THAT IS...
...STILL TOO EARLY!
AH HA HA!

OH, YES...
...RIGHT!

I ALMOST FORGOT.

I HAVE NO CONNECTION...
TO THESE VOICES...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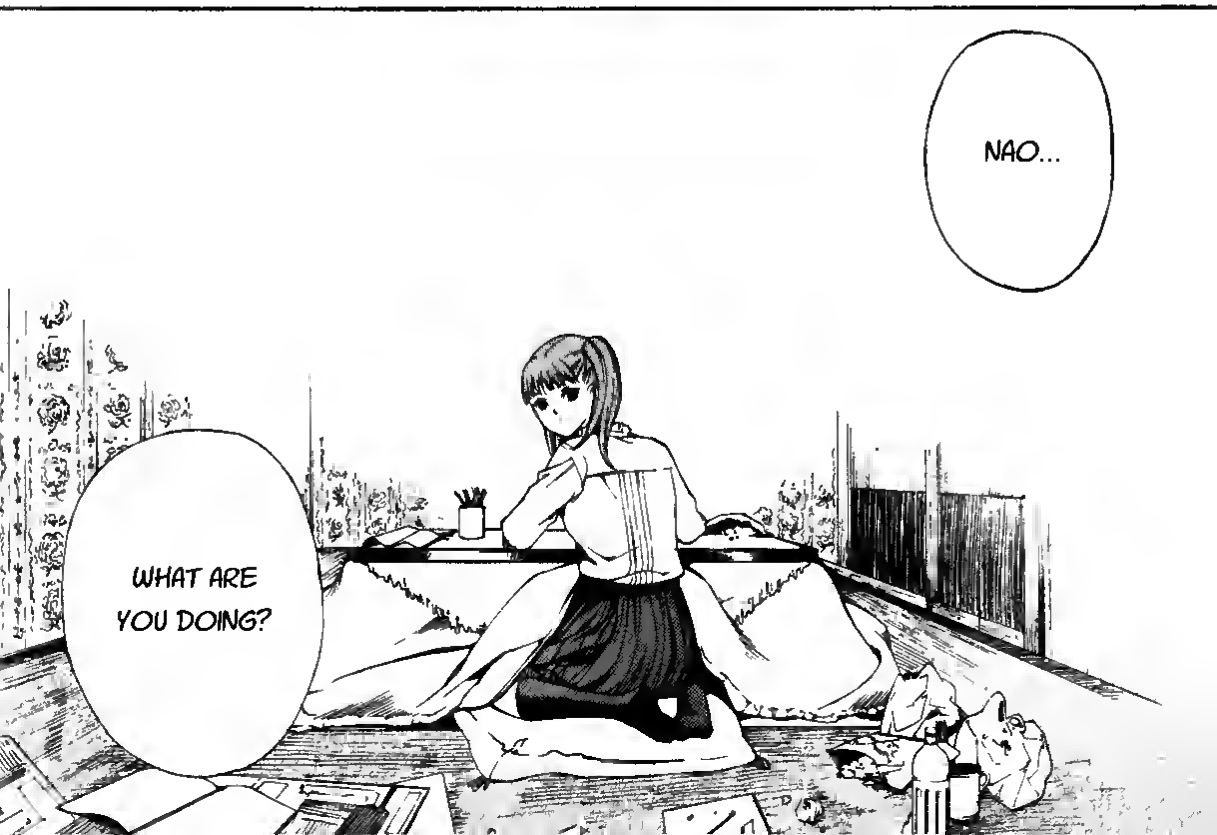
NAO...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'VE...
DECIDED TO GET MYSELF KIDNAPPED.
HUH?
BY WHOM?
BY MYSELF!

#viscans@irc.irchighway.net http://vi-scans.com/

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VILLAGE IDIOT SCANLATIONS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE LOOKING FOR AT LEAST 1 TRANSLATOR, AND 2 CLEANERS, A SHORT LIST OF OUR PROJECTS THAT NEED STAFF ARE:

LET'S LAGOON
FAMILY COMPO
GO! TENBA CHEERLEADERS
PUMPKIN SCISSORS
RULER OF THE LAND
SING YESTERDAY FOR ME
AND A FEW MORE...

MOST OF OUR PROJECTS NEED 1 OR 2 MORE STAFF MEMBERS PER SERIES TO SPEED THEM UP, SO IF YOU THINK YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT ISN'T BEING RELEASED FAST ENOUGH, PLEASE APPLY.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY VILLAGE IDIOT! PLEASE SUPPORT THE PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS BY PURCHASING THE ORIGINAL SERIES. WE HAVE A 2 DAY WAITING POLICY. IF THIS A NEW RELEASE AND YOU GOT THIS RELEASE FROM SOME WHERE OTHER THAN US THEN THAT SITE IS VIOLATING OUR HOSTING POLICY! PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THEM!
THIS IS THE 2ND PAGE IN THE CHAPTER!

escape.2

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Typsetter: Derek
Quality Checker: ZeroDC

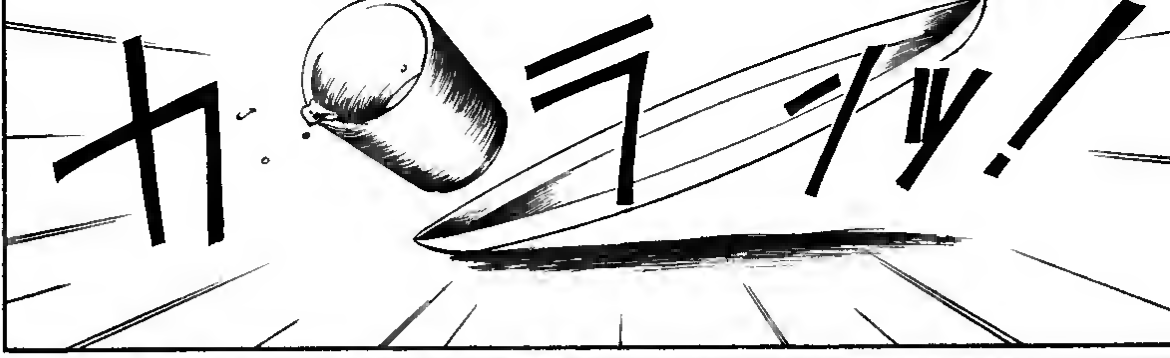
MR. DIRECTOR!

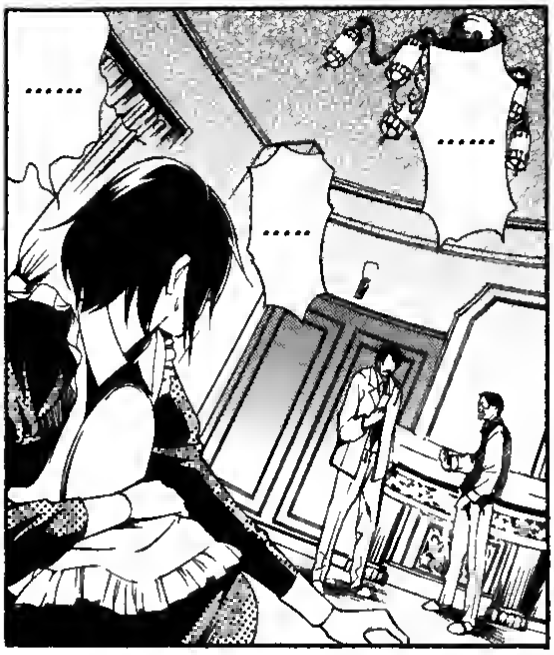
.....

THIS WAS IN THE MAILBOX.
IT WAS ANONYMOUS, SO I OPENED IT...

WHY DID YOU SCREAM?!
IT'S HOR-RIBLE!

Gulp
A KIDNAP-PING?!


カシラーッ!


.....
.....
.....

!

OH...
EH?
SORR...

DAMN, HOW SHOCKING! BUT SHE DROPPED SOMETHING AGAIN, I'M SURE...
THE MICROPHONE IN KUNIKO'S CELL SENT OVER ALL THE RUCKUS FROM THE MAIN HOUSE.
KUNIKO WENT THERE TO WORK WHILE I WAS SLEEPING AND TOLD ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

THE DAY BEFORE
KIDNAPPING...?!
IT'S GONNA GET TROUBLESOME SOON...
...BECAUSE I'M GONNA GET KIDNAPPED.
!
YOU WANNA FAKE A KIDNAPPING? A FEINT?
YUP, EXACTLY!
I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO EVEN KNOW THAT WORD!
YOU WANNA...
PLAY A PRANK ON THEM?
DON'T WORRY! ONCE I SEE THAT THEY'RE WORRIED, I'LL APPEAR AND TELL THEM THAT EVERYTHING WAS JUST A JOKE
NOT LIKE I REALLY WANT RANSOM FROM MY FATHER...

A RAN—
WHAT'S THAT?
A RANSOM NOTE.
AND DON'T LEAVE ANY FINGER-PRINTS!
SO, PLEASE...
...PUT THIS INTO THE MAILBOX.
...
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE SEES ME?!
I DON'T THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA!
SHE CAME BACK SO LATE THAT I FEARED IT MIGHT NOT HAVE WORKED OUT—
—BUT SHE DELIVERED IT WELL!
SHOULD I REALLY?
COME ON, DO IT!
...WHAT I TELL YOU TO!
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU WANT... YOU'LL DO...

TELL ME...
CRACK
!
EARLIER, I SAW SOMEBODY THROW IT IN!
THIS OLD SOUNDING VOICE... IS THAT OTSUKA, THE CHAUFFEUR?
!
WHO TOOK OUT THE LETTER?
AH...
KYOUKO'S VOICE!
WHAT'S UP?
HEY!
I'LL TELL YOU LATER.

.....
LEAVE THE ROOM, NOW!
AND DON'T TELL ANYONE FOR GOD'S SAKE!
...
YES...
OH...
SO EXCITING!
I'M THIRSTY...
FOR JUICE OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
IN THAT LITTLE WARDROBE THERE WAS ONLY A PLASTIC TANK FOR WASHING YOUR FACE AND SOME GROCERIES.
IF THERE WAS AT LEAST RUNNING WATER...
...AND A GAME-STATION OR A DVD-PLAYER INSTEAD OF THE PLASTIC TANK..

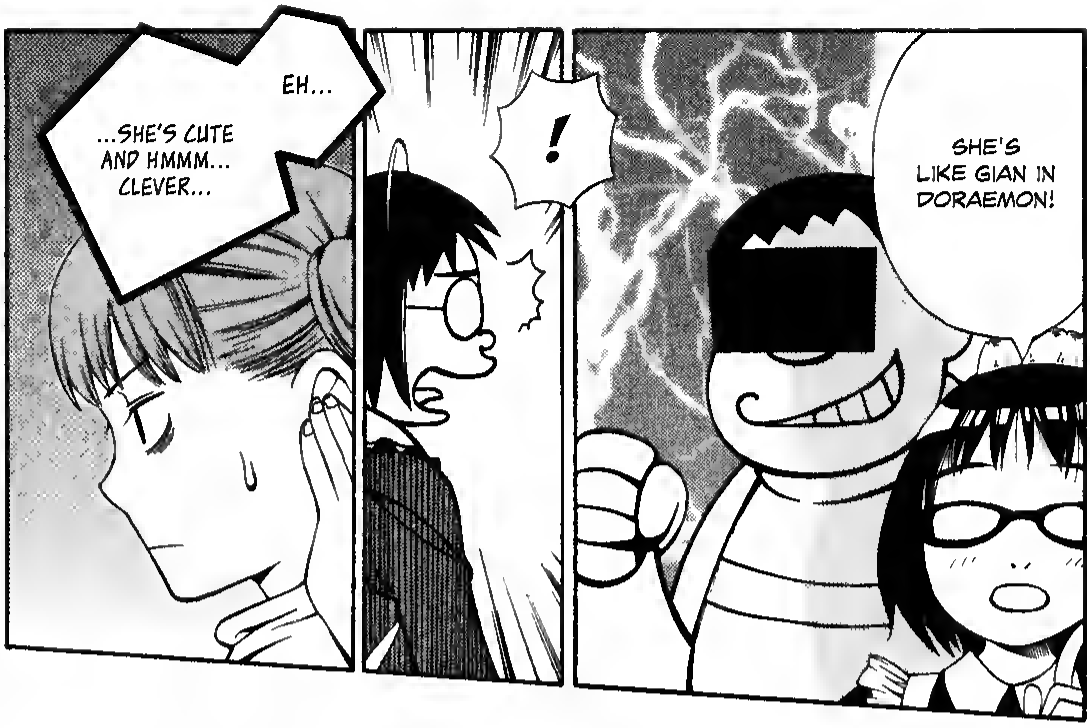
KUNIKO CARRIED HER STUFF OUT OF THE ROOM TO GIVE ME MY OWN SPACE...
YOU'RE THROWING THAT AWAY? VERY COMMENDABLE!
I JUST GAVE IT TO AN ACQUAINTANCE!
SHE HAS FRIENDS? HMMM, WHO CARES...
ガビッ
ｶﾞ

EXACTLY.
THERE ARE 5 PEOPLE, PROBABLY POLICEMEN.
YEAH.
YEAH.
IT'S PROBABLY A TAP AND TRACE DEVICE... IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING ONE.
ONE PUT SOME GADGET ON THE TELEPHONE.
.....
I SEE. WHAT ARE THEY DOING RIGHT NOW?
...TWO AS STAFFERS AND THREE AS RELATIVES OF MRS. SUGIWARA.
THEY'RE DISGUISED, ...
THEY DELIBERATELY CAME AT DIFFERENT TIMES.
NO. OH.. HANG ON A SECOND..
?
THE POLICEMEN HAVEN'T BEEN EXPOSED TO THE STAFF?
THREE POLICEMEN AND MR SUGIWARA ARE GOING TO THE JAPANESE ROOM...
OH, THE SECRETARY AND KYOUKO WERE TOLD TO GO THERE EARLIER TOO.
AND THE OTHERS?

YOU... YOU'RE AN EMPLOYEE HERE?
Y-YES...!
HMMM... SORRY...
THIS CORRIDOR LOOKS FAMILIAR...
AH, FROM HERE ON I KNOW THE WAY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY...
I CAN'T FIND THE WAY OUT ANYMORE...
NO PROB-LEM.
IS IT TRUE THAT THE MASTER'S DAUGHTER GOT KIDNAPPED?
YES?
AH... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

I HEARD ONE OF THE STAFF HERE HAS NOTICED. HOW...
TELL ME...
...THE PEOPLE THAT CAME WITH YOU ARE FROM THE POLICE, RIGHT?
THAT'S STILL CONFIDENTIAL.
AH... OK...
I ACCIDENTALLY LISTENED TO A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. SUGIWARA AND MR. OTSUKA.
AH...!
CAN YOU FIND THE GIRL WITH JUST FIVE PEOPLE?
WELL...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
THE CONNECTION WAS BAD, BUT I UNDERSTOOD MOST OF IT.
SO FOR A KIDNAPPING CASE THEY FIRST SEND SOME PEOPLE TO YOUR HOME.
THERE CAN'T BE TOO MANY, ELSE THE KIDNAPPER MIGHT NOTICE THAT THE POLICE WAS CALLED.
AND THEN POLICE SEND IN A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT.

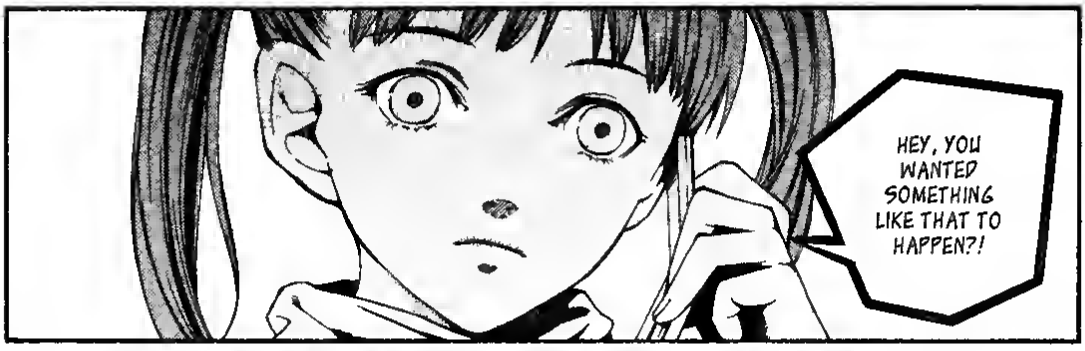
YOU'RE KUSUNOKI KUNIKO?
YES!
EXCUSE ME!
SORRY!
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT MORE OR LESS?
BY ACCIDENT, YOU WERE AROUND WHEN MR. SUGIWARA GOT THE LETTER.
YES...
SIMPLE QUESTIONS, THEY WON'T TAKE LONG.
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL JUST ASK YOU SOME...
WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS NAO SUGAWARA, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HER?
.....
AND ONE FINAL QUESTION...

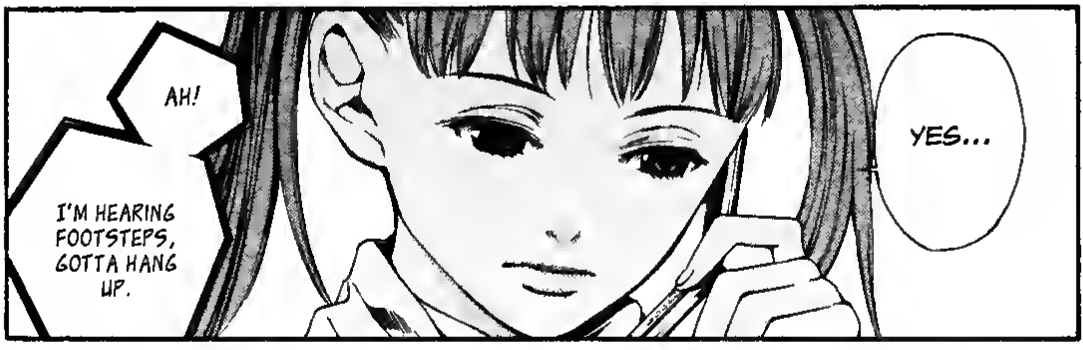

EH...
...SHE'S CUTE AND HMMM... CLEVER...
!
SHE'S LIKE GIAN IN DORAEMON!

WHO THE HELL IS LIKE GIAN?!
I'VE...
...BEEN QUESTIONED IN THE JAPANESE ROOM .
YES!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
I MEANT AS POWERFUL AS GIAN!
YOU HEARD EVERYTHING?

THE VILLA IS FAST.
ONCE KUNIKO WASN'T BEING OBSERVED ...
...SHE STARTED GIVING ME REPORTS.
NEVERTHELESS, I COULDN'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND IT OVER THE PHONE.
FOR EXAMPLE, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE POLICEMEN LOOKED LIKE.
BIT BY BIT, I COMPILED THE INFORMATION THAT KUNIKO...
...GAVE ME ABOUT THE SITUATION AT THE MAIN HOUSE.

AT DINNER, YOUR FATHER...
...THREW A PLATE AT THE WALL.
THANK-FULLY!
EH? WHY?


HEY, YOU WANTED SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN?!


YES...
AH!
I'M HEARING FOOTSTEPS, GOTTA HANG UP.

OH, KUNIKO-SAN...
...HERE YOU ARE?

THAT'S GOOD.
PLEASE BRING SOME TEA TO MY ROOM.
Y-YES...
...NO PROBLEM.
HMM?
KYOUKO'S VOICE SOUNDS DIFFERENT... OR AM I JUST IMAGINING IT?
IT WASN'T MY IMAGINATION.
I COULD TOTALLY SEE HER IN FRONT OF ME...

I WORRY ABOUT...

...KYOUKO-SAN. SHE LOOKED SO DOWN...

...A POWERLESS KYOUKO...

...THAT WAS COMPLETELY DESPONDENT.

I'M THE KID OF HER HUSBAND'S DECEASED WIFE... AND NOT EVEN RELATED TO HIM.

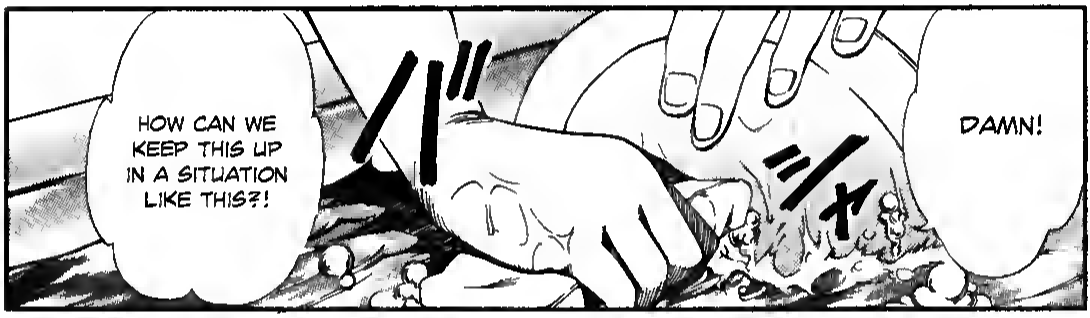
WE FOUGHT SO OFTEN THAT I THOUGHT SHE'D HATE ME!

I FAKED MY KIDNAPPING TO GET KYOUKO THROWN OUT OF THE HOUSE.

...SUDDENLY BEING DOWN AFTER HEARING ABOUT ME BEING KIDNAPPED...

BUT HER...

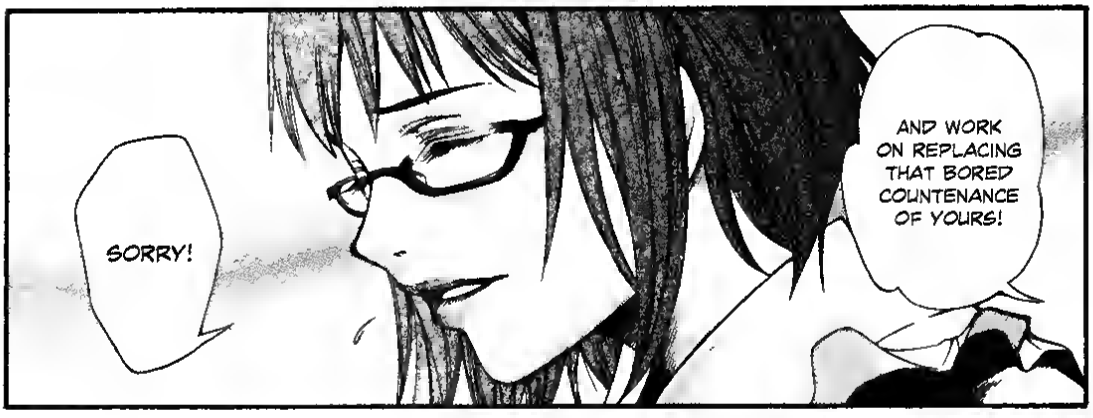
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES!

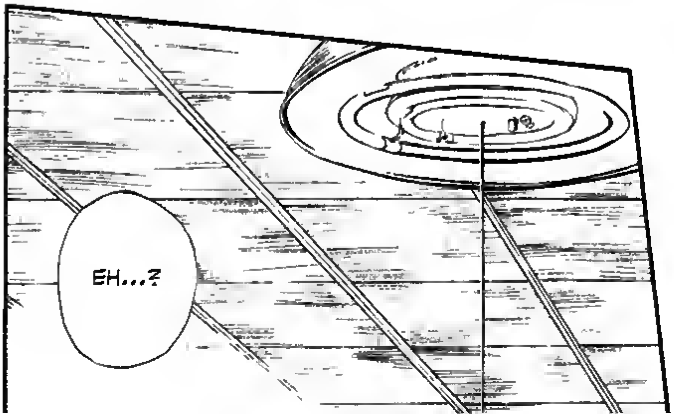

HOW CAN WE KEEP THIS UP IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?!
DAMN!

DAMN! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-THING?!
YOU SLOW-POKE!
SORRY.
YES...
KUNIKO-SAN.
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT NAO EVEN BEFORE THE POLICE TOLD YOU?

IF YOUR UNCLE WASN'T PART OF THE FAMILY...
...YOU'D BE FIRED IMMEDIATELY.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU DID AROUND HERE.

YOU EVEN FAIL AT SERVING TEA.
YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING WHILE CLEANING...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT AROUND VISITORS...

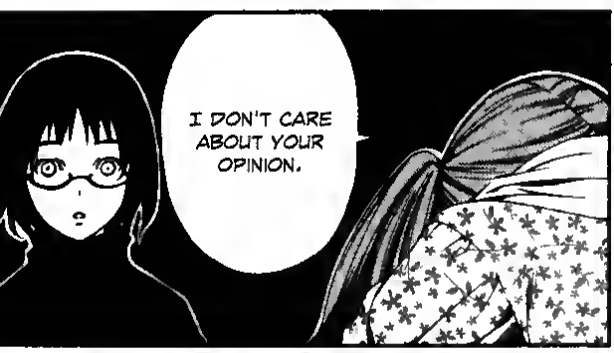

SORRY!
AND WORK ON REPLACING THAT BORED COUNTENANCE OF YOURS!

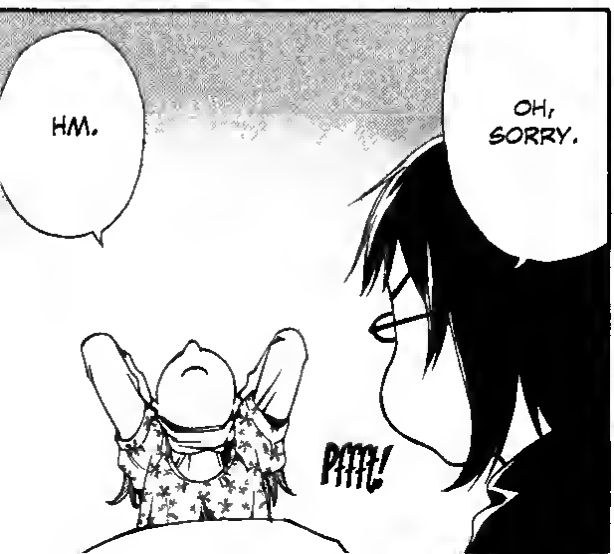

EH...?

I WAS DOUBTING.

THE POLICE HAD TAKEN ACTION, AND THAT MADE ME AFRAID.

AND MY CONSCIENCE WAS FEELING GUILTY.





I'LL WAIT FOR A BIT..
SHOULD I NOT EXPOSE EVERYTHING SOON, EVERYONE WOULD BE ANGRY AT ME.
BUT KUNIKO WANTS TO PREVENT THAT...
?
BUT I'VE ALREADY SENT THE RANSOM NOTE.
THAT LETTER ...?!
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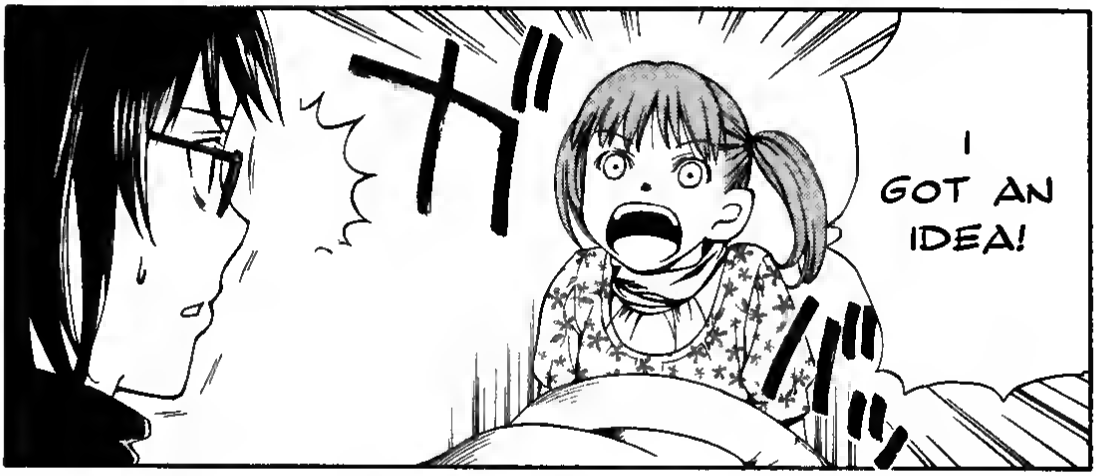
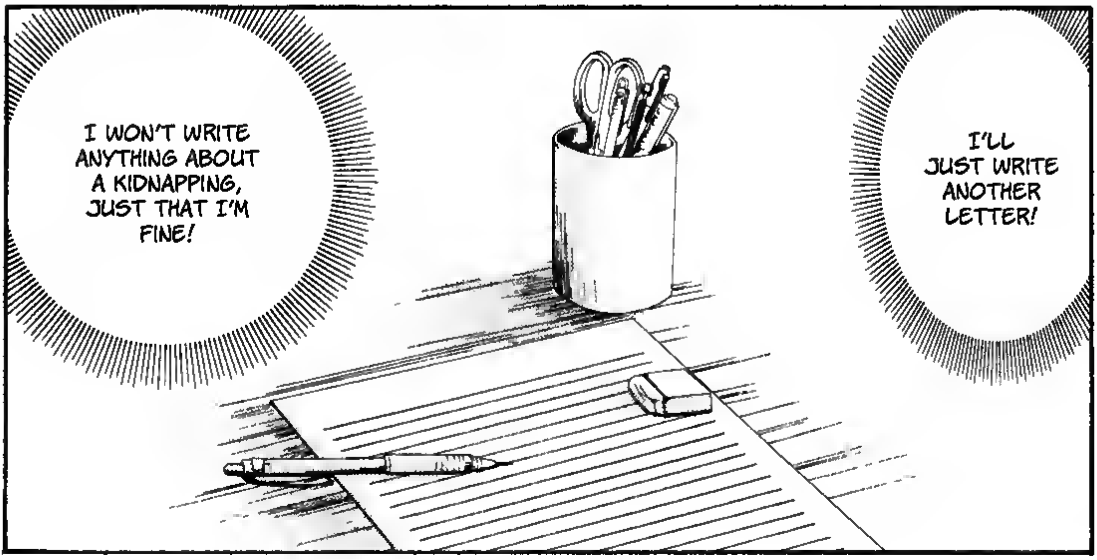
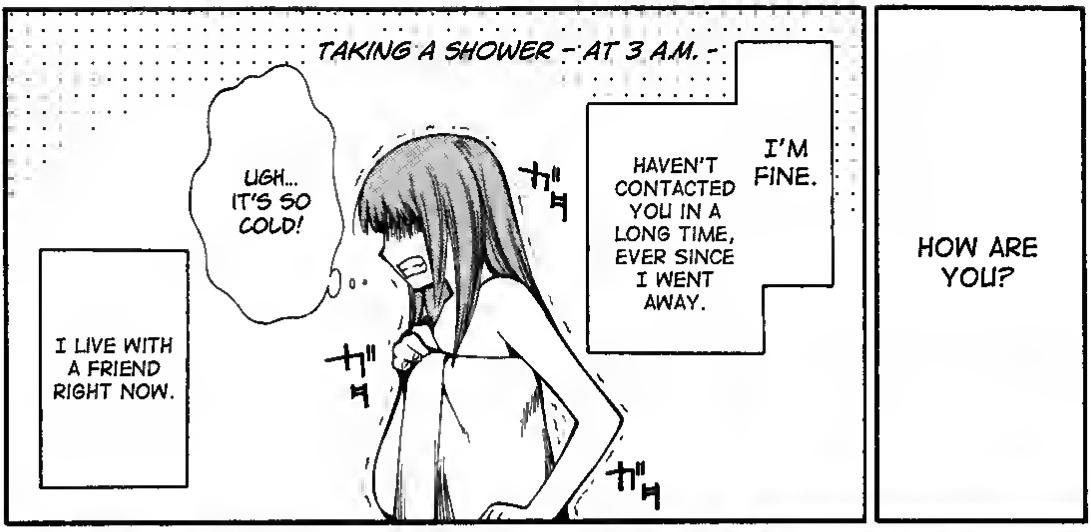
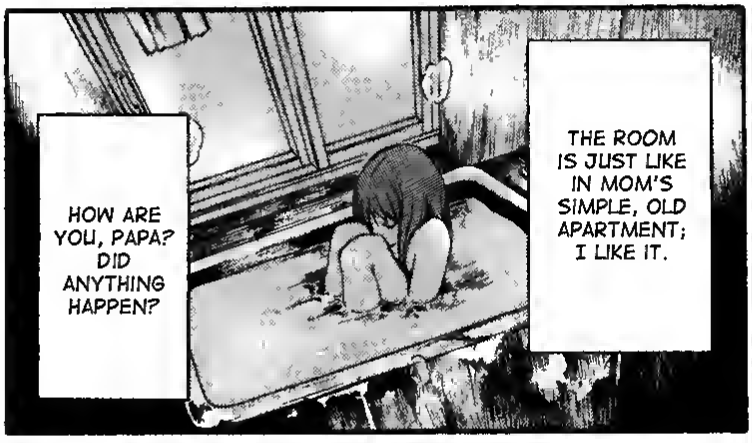

I GOT AN IDEA!


I WON'T WRITE ANYTHING ABOUT A KIDNAPPING, JUST THAT I'M FINE!
I'LL JUST WRITE ANOTHER LETTER!

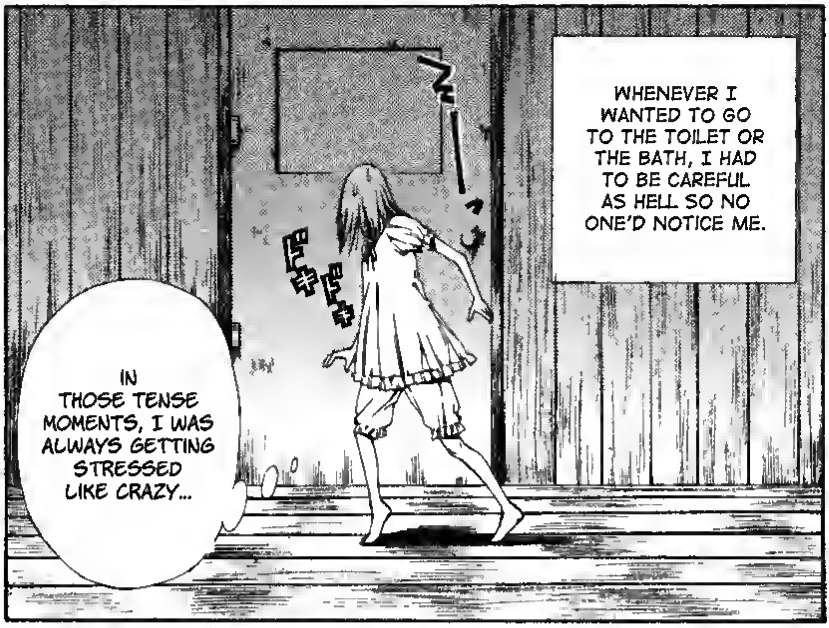

TAKING A SHOWER - AT 3 A.M. -
UGH... IT'S SO COLD!
I LIVE WITH A FRIEND RIGHT NOW.
HAVEN'T CONTACTED YOU IN A LONG TIME, EVER SINCE I WENT AWAY.
I'M FINE.
HOW ARE YOU?


HOW ARE YOU, PAPA? DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
THE ROOM IS JUST LIKE IN MOM'S SIMPLE, OLD APARTMENT; I LIKE IT.

I GOT TO KNOW HER AT A BOOK-STORE...
...AND WE'RE GETTING ALONG WELL.

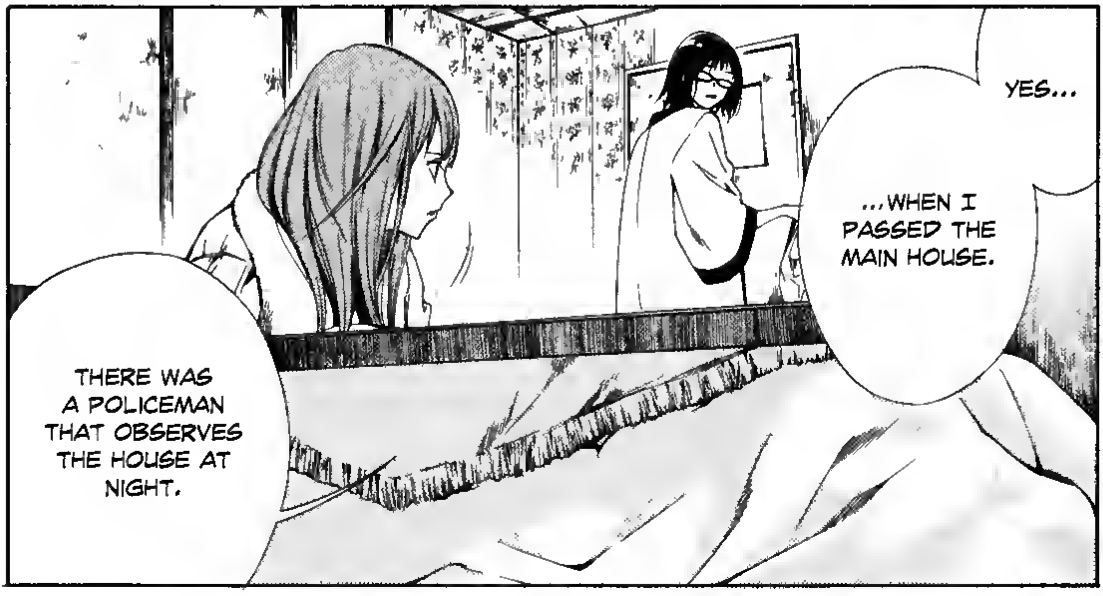
I JUST GOTTA WAIT 'TILL IT ARRIVES.
I MADE KUNIKO DELIVER THE LETTER.

A GRAPHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION WILL PROVE THAT IT WAS REALLY ME WHO WROTE THIS LETTER.
EVERYONE WILL THINK THE RANSOM NOTE WAS JUST SOMEONE JOKING AROUND.


WHENEVER I WANTED TO GO TO THE TOILET OR THE BATH, I HAD TO BE CAREFUL AS HELL SO NO ONE'D NOTICE ME.
IN THOSE TENSE MOMENTS, I WAS ALWAYS GETTING STRESSED LIKE CRAZY...

CREAK

WHAT?!
THE POLICE TALKED TO YOU WHEN YOU WENT OUT?!


YES...
...WHEN I PASSED THE MAIN HOUSE.
THERE WAS A POLICEMAN THAT OBSERVES THE HOUSE AT NIGHT.

UNDERSTOOD... THE POLICE THOUGHT THEY HAD TO ALLOW...
PEOPLE TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR OLD HABITS.
BUT SOMEONE TOLD HIM THAT I OFTEN GO OUT AT NIGHT...
...SO HE DIDN'T GET ESPECIALLY SUSPICIOUS.
NAO...
YES?
SHOULD THE BEHAVIOR OF THE RESIDENTS CHANGE SUDDENLY, THE KIDNAPPER MIGHT FIND OUT THAT THE POLICE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED.
HELL...
...TAKE A SHOVEL AND RUB IT DRY!
'K, 'K. SINCE I CAN'T USE A BLOW DRIER!
WELL,
I WANNA DRY MY HAIR.
WHAT DO YOU DO UNDER THE KOTATSU?

GYA...
HMM...
.....
.....
?!
NA... NAO?!
COULD THAT...
HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION? BUT THAT WAS DEFINITELY HER VOICE...
SNORT
HEHEHE!

BUT IT'S TRUE...
...I HEARD MS. NAO SCREAM!
I heard Ms. Nao scream!
IT WAS KURIB-AYASHI FROM THE STAFF
I WOKE UP AND DIRECTLY BEHIND THE WALL...
THE CRIMI-NALS...
...KILLED HER...
WHY ARE YOU STARING LIKE THAT?!
.....
OH, THAT DUDE...
...LIVES IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR?

KILL...
...WHAT DID YOU SAY?

EH?!
THE BOSS IS CRABBY. JUST LIKE FOUR YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

YOU COME WITH ME!

...YOU WEREN'T AROUND BACK THEN.
OH...

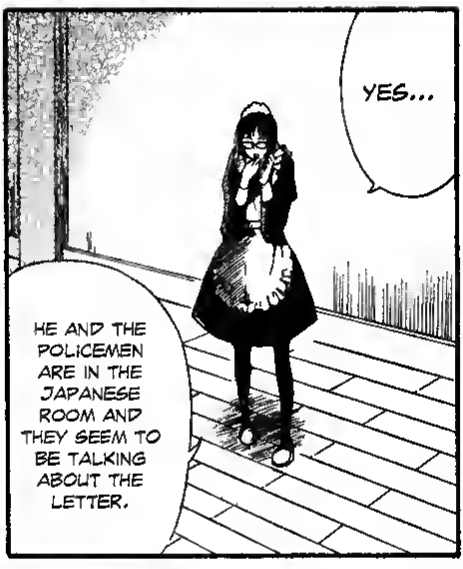
OF COURSE, BUSINESS WASN'T GOING WELL.
I WAS ALMOST FIRED!
HE OFTEN SKIPPED WORK, SAID HE WAS SICK...
...SAT AT HOME AND STARED AT THE TV SCREEN.
.....

IT WAS JUST AFTER HIS FIRST WIFE DIED...
AH...

DON'T WORRY!
NAO-CHAN WILL SURELY RETURN HOME SAFELY.
I'D BE AFRAID, TOO, FOR SURE.
OH, SORRY ...
...THAT I TOLD YOU THAT JUST NOW.
NO, NO...
AFTERWARDS, KUNIKO TOLD ME ABOUT A BIG FIGHT BETWEEN PAPA AND KYOUKO.
THE STRESSED ATMOSPHERE AT THE MAIN HOUSE WAS CONVEYED PERFECTLY OVER THE PHONE.
NO PROBLEM.
TOMORROW, THEY'LL READ MY LETTER.
SO EVERY-THING'S FINE...

JUST NOW...
...YOUR FATHER FOUND THE LETTER IN THE MAILBOX WHILE HE WAS GOING OUTSIDE.

AH.
OKAY, ONCE YOU HEAR SOMETHING NEW, YOU'LL TELL ME, 'K?


YES...
HE AND THE POLICEMEN ARE IN THE JAPANESE ROOM AND THEY SEEM TO BE TALKING ABOUT THE LETTER.

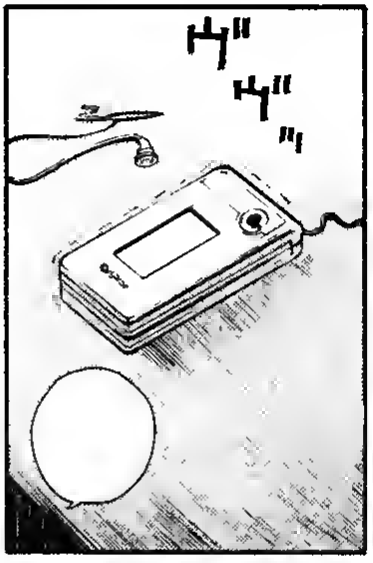
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OK!

THANK GOD!
BEEP

NOW I JUST GOTTA WAIT 'TILL THE OFFICIALS LEAVE!
.....
!
THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN AROUND FOR THREE HOURS!
.....?
HM?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT ONE BEFORE. IS HE A POLICEMAN?

MYSTE-
RIOUS!
EVEN AFTER THREE HOURS, THE POLICE ARE STILL AROUND.
OH...
UGH... SHOCKING!

I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE STILL AROUND...
BUT EXCEPT FOR YOUR FATHER, NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THE LETTER.

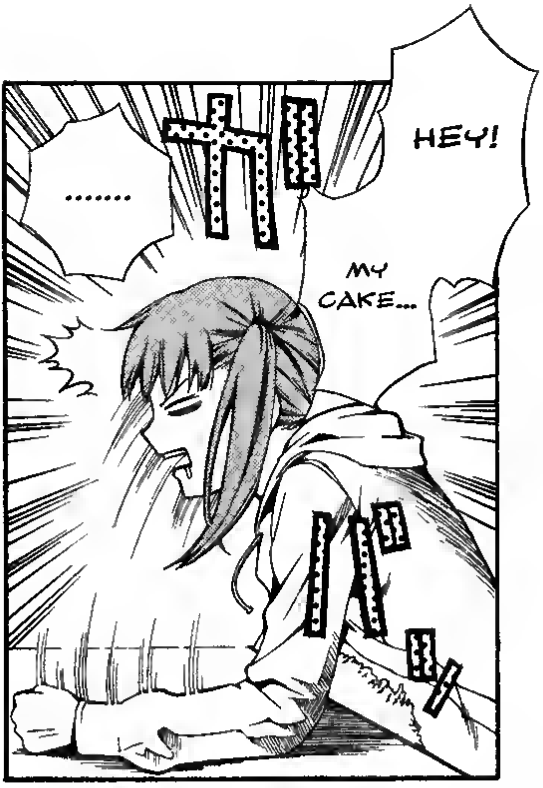


I SEE...

NOT TOO LONG AGO, SOME OFFICIALS LEFT THE ROOM
HE TOOK IT OUT OF THE MAILBOX AND IMMEDIATELY LOCKED HIMSELF IN.
THEY LOOKED QUITE GLOOMY...

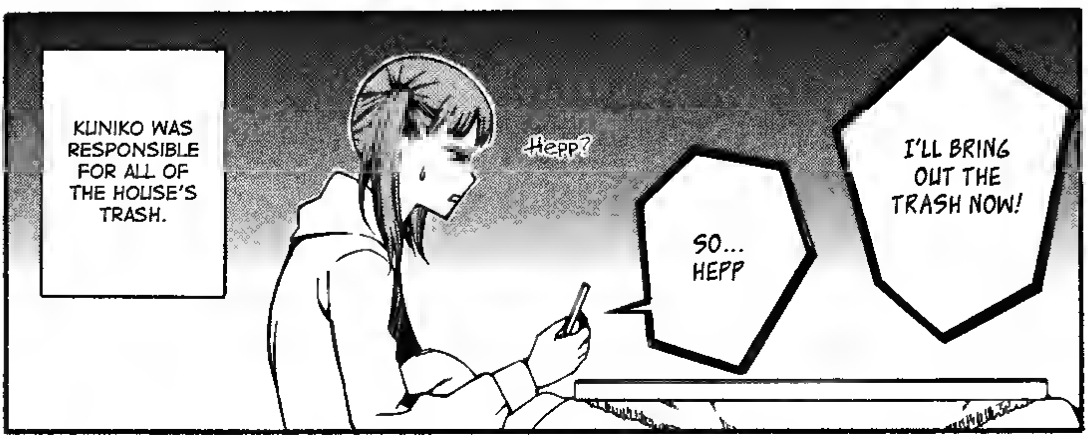
NAO.
...MAKE SURE TO NOT STAND TOO CLOSE TO THE WINDOW.
THAT'S OBVIOUS.
AND I THOUGHT THAT WHEN HE'D READ...
THE LETTER, HE'D SIMPLY...
RRRRR
RRRRR
RRRRR
RRRRRR

HM?
THAT WAS A DREAM...
RIIII


HEY!
.....
MY CAKE...

NAO!
WERE YOU SLEEPING?

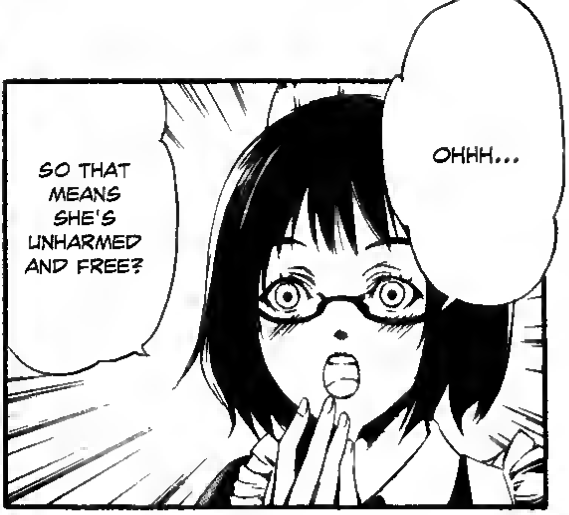
OH, NOTHING SO HOW WAS IT?
S-SORRY... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DAMN!
I FINALLY GOT IT AND WANTED TO TAKE A BITE.
SO... MY BATTIERY IS DYING, THAT'S WHY I JUST WANTED TO CALL YOU.


KUNIKO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE HOUSE'S TRASH.
Hepp?
SO... HEPP
I'LL BRING OUT THE TRASH NOW!

CARRYING OUT THE GARBAGE... THAT'S THE PERFECT JOB FOR KUNIKO! ANYONE COULD DO THAT...
SHE CARRIED OUT LARGE BAGS OF TRASH EVERY EVENING.
OH, THEY'RE SO HEAVY...
OH, YOU'RE CARRYING OUT THE GARBAGE... ALWAYS BUSY, HUH?
!
YOU ARE TOO. ALWAYS OBSERVING THE HOUSE!
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? IT'S ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING
IF I CAN HELP YOU, I'D BE GLAD TO!
THAT HOARSE VOICE... I'VE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE!
A POLICEMAN.

HMM...
A LETTER CAME IN TODAY, RIGHT?
MY CO-WORKERS ARE KINDA CHATTY...
IS THERE ANY NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE KIDNAPPERS?
WELL... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
YES... WHY?
AH, THAT'S IT. SO ABOUT THAT...
...YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY!
THE LETTER WASN'T WRITTEN BY THE CULPRITS...
...BUT BY SUGIWARA NAO.

NO, WE CAN'T...
FEEL SAFE JUST BECAUSE OF THAT...
MAYBE SHE WAS FORCED TO WRITE THE LETTER.


OHHH...
SO THAT MEANS SHE'S UNHARMED AND FREE?

I GOTTA TEACH HER ABOUT BEING A BETTER ACTRESS.
.....

AS LONG WE DON'T SEE A HEALTHY NAO-SAN IN FRONT OF US, WE'VE GOT TO CAREFULLY MONITOR THE CASE.

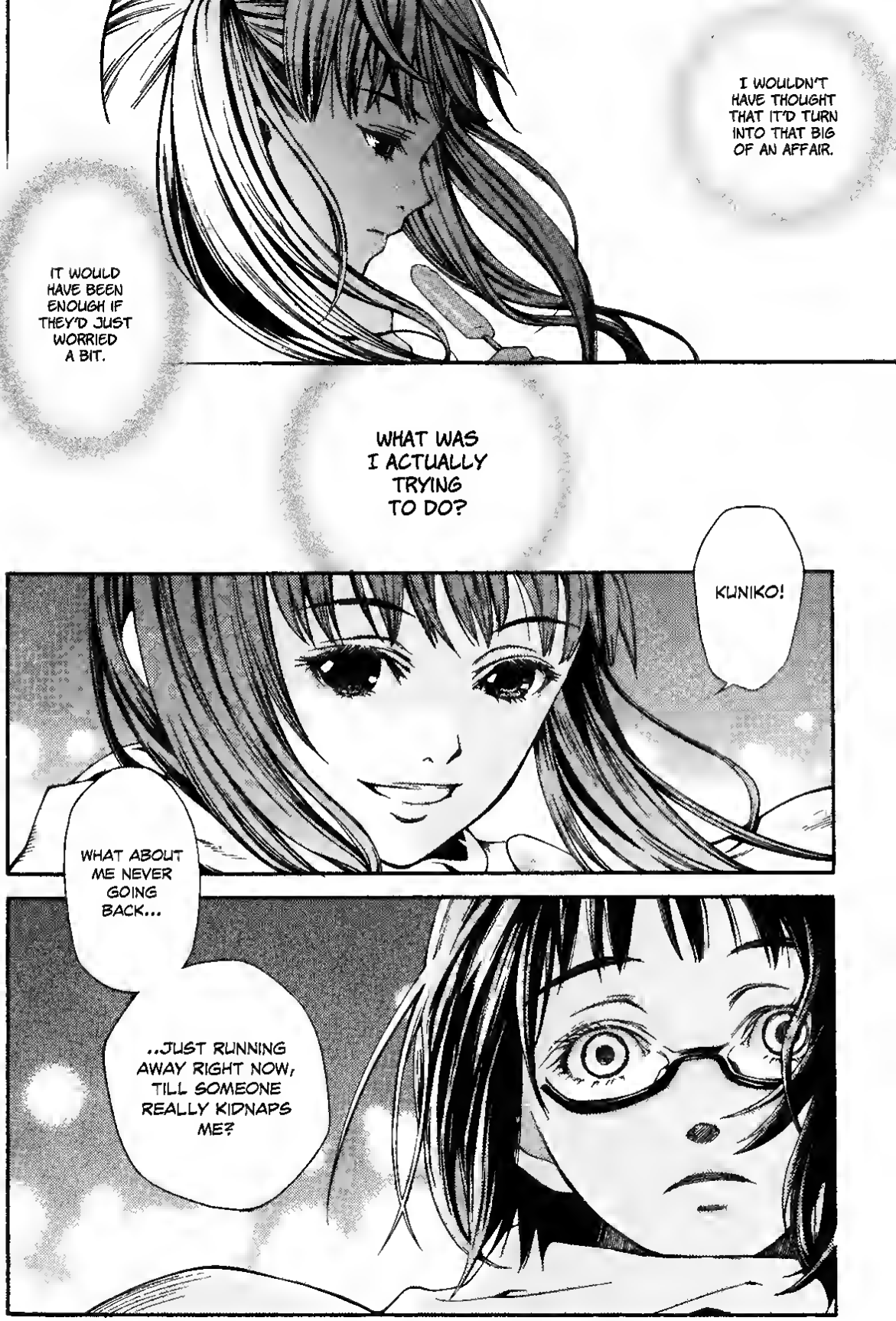
I'VE DECIDED!
I ABSOLUTELY WANTED TO GO TO A CONVENIENCE STORE, BUY SOMETHING DELICIOUS, AND EAT IT.
WHEN I HEARD THAT, I REALLY WANTED TO GO OUT AGAIN.

I'LL GO OUTSIDE!
THAT—
...I'M GONNA DIE!
IF I DON'T GET TO EAT SOME SWEETS SOON...
You wanna let me starve to death?!
BUT I WANT TO! AND THAT'S WHY I'LL GO!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

AH!
CAN YOU LEND ME A COAT AND STUFF?
I'LL COME WITH YOU THEN!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER TO NOT WEAR THE COAT I RAN AWAY IN.
A SHORT JACKET...
THEY MIGHT RECOGNIZE ME IN IT.
CAUSE I'LL RUN AWAY! THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS!
...YOU'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING!
IF THE POLICE SEE ME ON THE WAY OUT...

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN TO A SHOP!
BUT I'M SENT OUT EVERY EVENING!
HMMM...
FINALLY, FRESH AIR AGAIN!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
NO...
AH...?!
BUT THEY DON'T COLLECT BURNABLE GARBAGE TODAY!
THE GARBAGEMAN WON'T LIKE THAT!
.....

IT SEEMS THE..
...SECOND LETTER ACTUALLY DIDN'T WORK OUT VERY WELL.
.....
NAO?
ALTHOUGH THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED, THE SITUATION HADN'T CALMED DOWN.
I WAS SOMEWHAT FRUSTRATED.

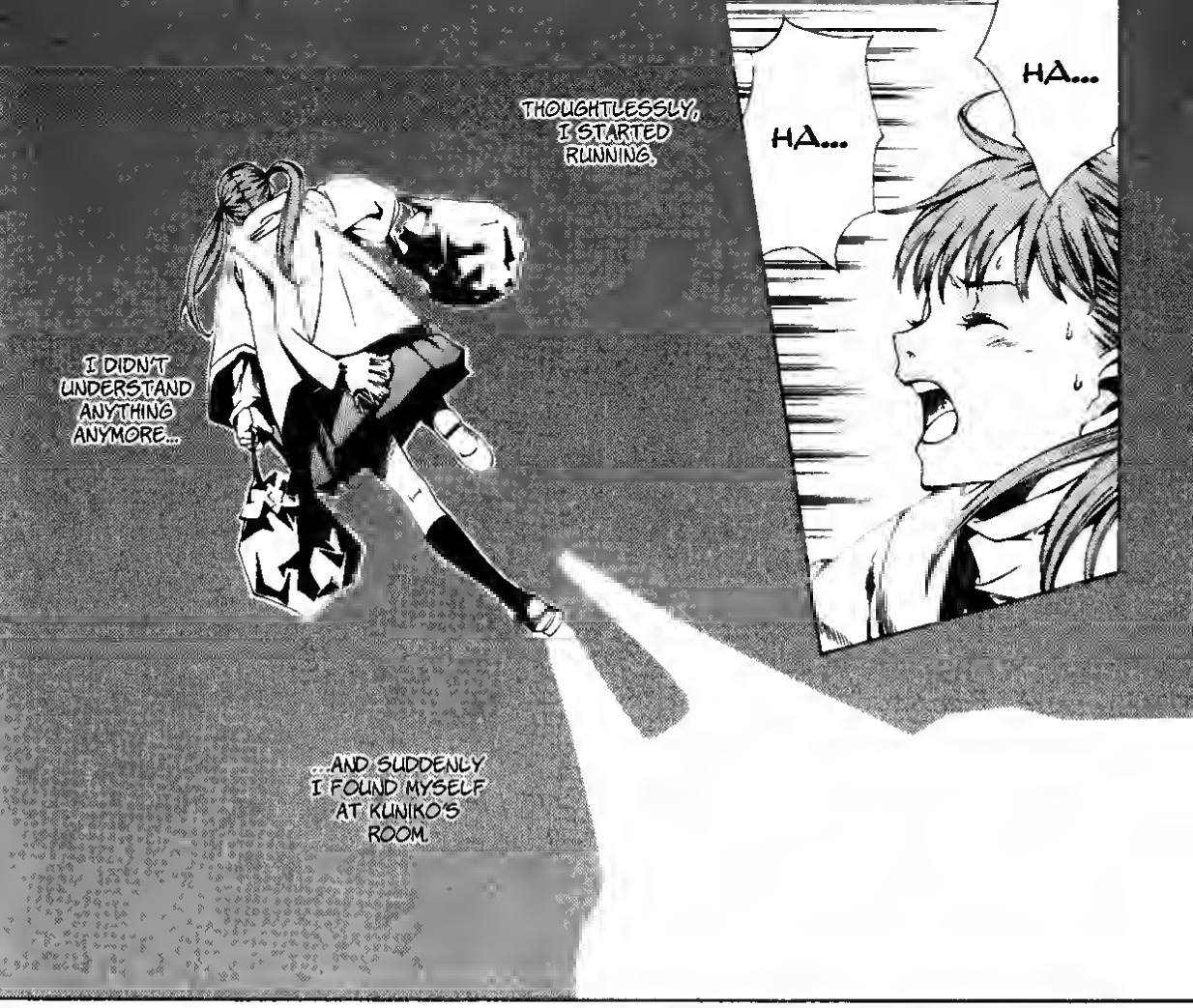

I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT'D TURN INTO THAT BIG OF AN AFFAIR.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH IF THEY'D JUST WORRIED A BIT.
WHAT WAS I ACTUALLY TRYING TO DO?
KUNIKO!
WHAT ABOUT ME NEVER GOING BACK...
..JUST RUNNING AWAY RIGHT NOW, TILL SOMEONE REALLY KIDNAPS ME?

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOUR ERRANDS!
THE COOKIES AND THE JUICE...
...THEY ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU!
QUIT JOKING!
YOU'D BETTER PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
WATCH TO THE FRONT!
KUNIKO!
GET ME...
ゴ
ウ
ッ
AH, STRIKE!

?!
Oh...
...ANOTHER...

Gyaaah
...ONE...

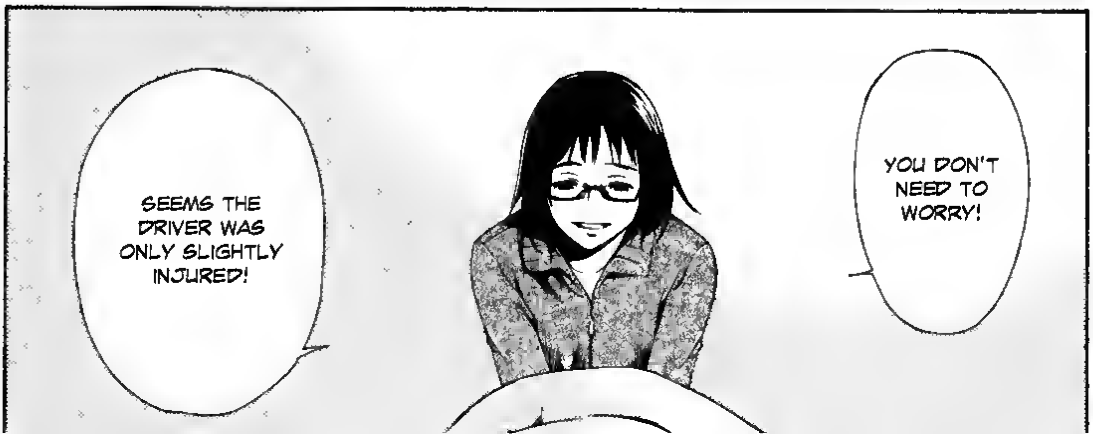
NAO!
EH...?!
EH? AH...
I'LL SAY THE DRIVER JUST MISSED ME BEFORE DRIVING INTO THE WALL!
GO BACK TO THE ROOM!
FAST!
COME ON, GO!
Y-YES...
ME CARRYING ALL THAT WOULD RAISE SUSPICION!
TAKE THE COOKIES WITH YOU!

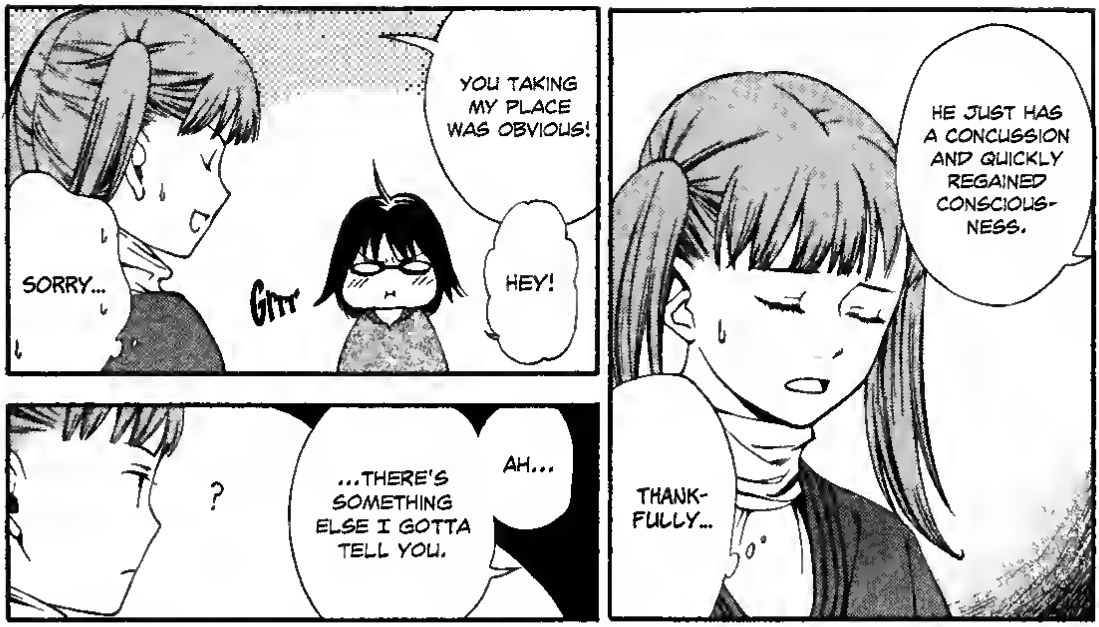


BECAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT, THERE WAS ANOTHER QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE, AND PAPA WAS TAKEN UP, TOO. THAT'S WHY IT TOOK SO LONG.

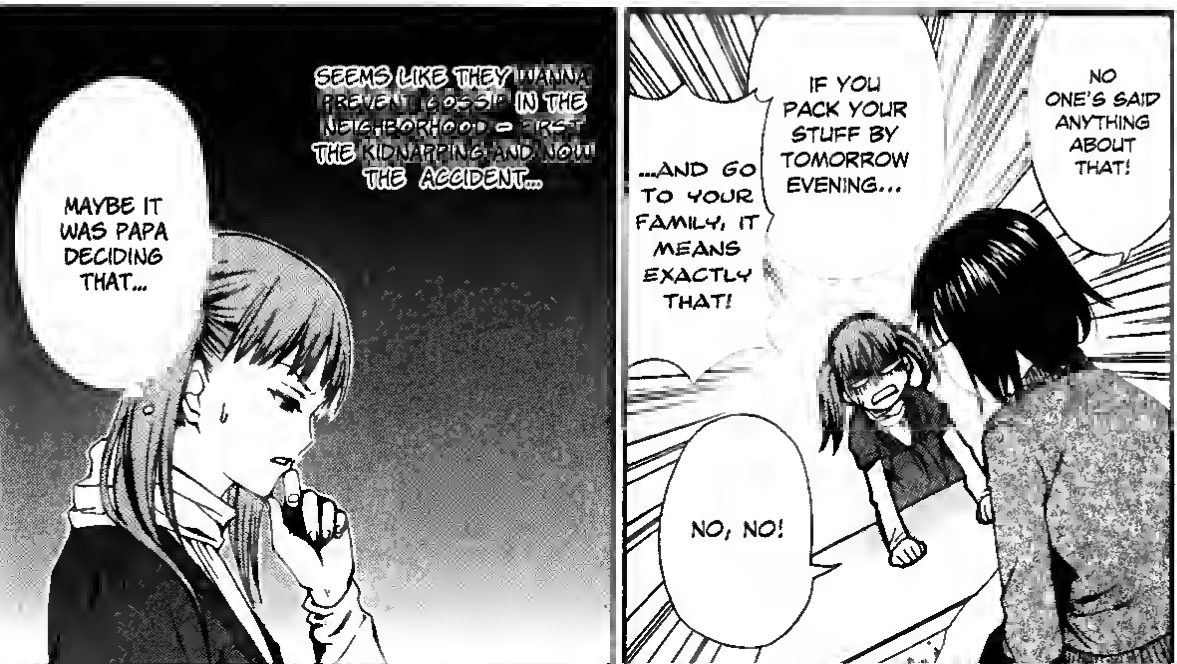
THE WHOLE HOUSE HAD ALREADY BEEN IN AN STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE KIDNAPPING.

KUNIKO ONLY JUST RETURNED THE NEXT MORNING.



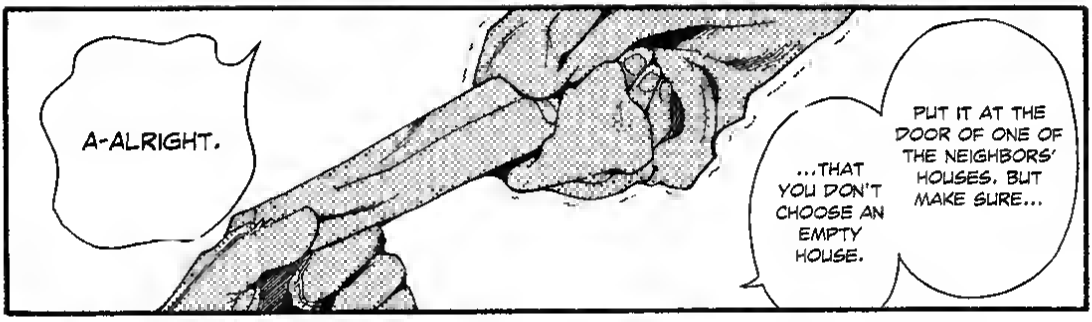

YOU TAKING MY PLACE WAS OBVIOUS!
HEY!
GIII'
SORRY...
HE JUST HAS A CONCUSSION AND QUICKLY REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.
THANK-FULLY...
AH...
...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I GOTTA TELL YOU.
?

THAT MEANS...
...YOU'RE GONNA GET FIRED?!

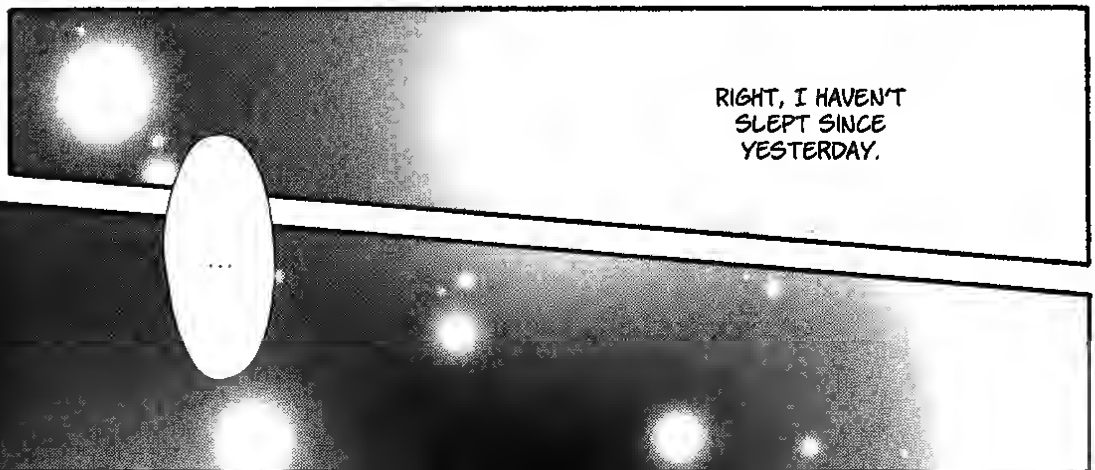

SEEMS LIKE THEY WANNA PREVENT GOSSIP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FIRST THE KIDNAPPING AND NOW THE ACCIDENT...
MAYBE IT WAS PAPA DECIDING THAT...
...AND GO TO YOUR FAMILY, IT MEANS EXACTLY THAT!
IF YOU PACK YOUR STUFF BY TOMORROW EVENING...
NO ONE'S SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
NO, NO!

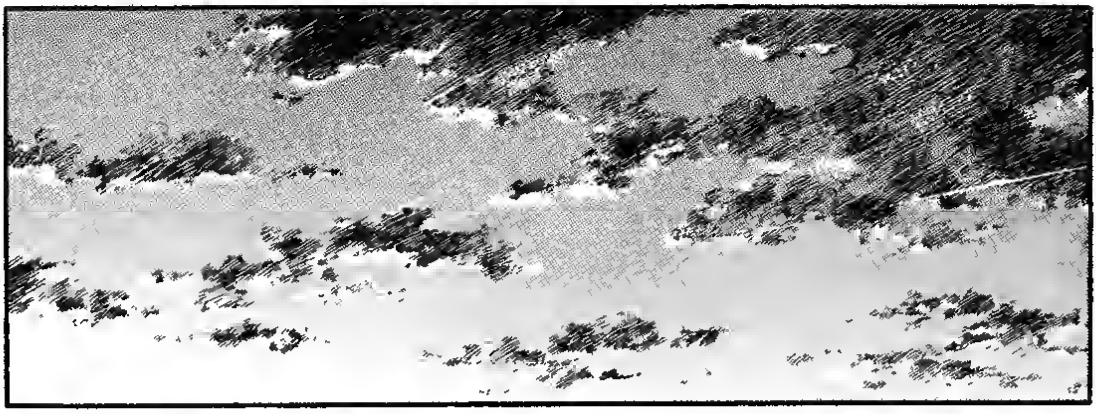
BUT, AS IT SEEMS, KUNIKO WILL BE FIRED FOR SURE.
THEN I WON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO ANYMORE...
LET'S ASK FOR RANSOM MONEY!
THAT'LL SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS! YOU'LL BE THE HEROINE...
...AND NO ONE WILL DARE OFFEND YOU ANYMORE...
...AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR JOB.
YOU'LL TAKE A BAG FULL OF MONEY...
...TO THE HANDOFF.
HUH? I SHOULD DO THE HANDOFF?
HMMM... UNDER-STOOD...
WE'LL DO THAT!

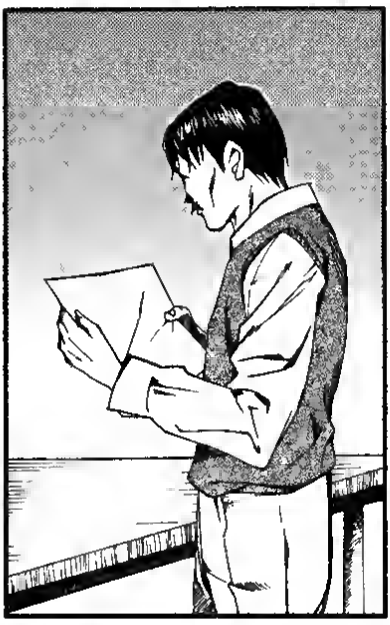
I IMMEDIATELY WROTE THE LETTER. THE RANSOM MONEY...
...SHOULD BE TWO MILLION YEN, AND THE HANDOFF WOULD...
...BE PERFORMED BY KUSUNOKI KUNIKO, ON THE SAME DAY.

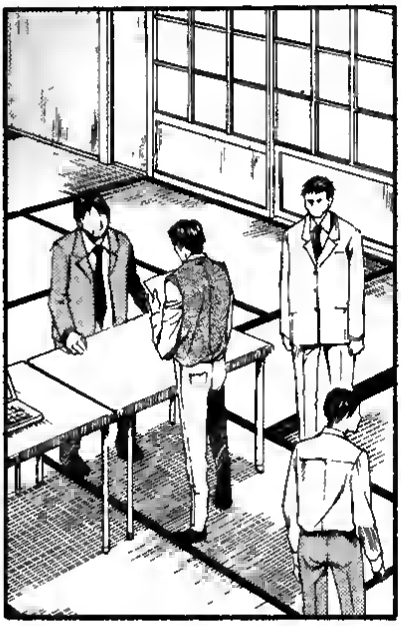

PUT IT AT THE DOOR OF ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS' HOUSES. BUT MAKE SURE...
...THAT YOU DON'T CHOOSE AN EMPTY HOUSE.
A-ALRIGHT.

WHEW...
I'M TOTALLY EXHAUSTED BY THIS WHOLE AFFAIR...


RIGHT, I HAVEN'T SLEPT SINCE YESTERDAY.
...







FINALLY, NEWS FROM THE KIDNAP-PERS!
.....
BUT THAT'S ACTUALLY OBVIOUS...

NAO!
PLEASE BE WELL!

SO, EVERYTHING'S PREPARED!
TOMORROW WE'LL EXECUTE EVERYTHING AS PLANNED!
WELL...
...I'LL GET GOING THEN!
TSK... SHE'S SLEEPING.
THANK YOU, COME AGAIN!

THE HANDOVER WILL BE TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT RUSHED, BUT KUNIKO IS GONNA GET THROWN OUT TOMORROW.
SHE EVEN PHRASED THAT COMPLETELY CORRECTLY...
AND I FINALLY WANNA PUT AN END TO ALL THIS INTRIGUE MYSELF.

#viscans@irc.irchighway.net http://vi-scans.com/

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COME JOIN US

VILLAGE IDIOT SCANLATIONS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE LOOKING FOR AT LEAST 1 TRANSLATOR, AND 2 CLEANERS, A SHORT LIST OF OUR PROJECTS THAT NEED STAFF ARE:

LET'S LAGOON
FAMILY COMPO
GO! TENBA CHEERLEADERS
PUMPKIN SCISSORS
RULER OF THE LAND
SING YESTERDAY FOR ME
AND A FEW MORE...

MOST OF OUR PROJECTS NEED 1 OR 2 MORE STAFF MEMBERS PER SERIES TO SPEED THEM UP, SO IF YOU THINK YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT ISN'T BEING RELEASED FAST ENOUGH, PLEASE APPLY.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY VILLAGE IDIOT! PLEASE SUPPORT THE PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS BY PURCHASING THE ORIGINAL SERIES. WE HAVE A 2 DAY WAITING POLICY. IF THIS A NEW RELEASE AND YOU GOT THIS RELEASE FROM SOME WHERE OTHER THAN US THEN THAT SITE IS VIOLATING OUR HOSTING POLICY! PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THEM!
THIS IS THE 2ND PAGE IN THE CHAPTER!

Escape.3

Village Idiot Scanlations
Translator: Eito
Cleaner: Eito
Proofreader: Revan
Typsetter: Seorul
Quality Checker: ZeroDC

6 A.M.
I HAD BEEN AT THE TRAIN STATION FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.
THE LETTER, WHICH I'D WRITTEN AND HAD KUNIKO DELIVER, I WROTE ...
I THINK I CAN EAT BREAK-FAST NOW...
I REALLY BOUGHT ENOUGH EARLIER...
IT'S STILL SIX HOURS UNTIL THE...
...EX-CHANGE ...
'SHE'LL EXECUTE THE EXCHANGE. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN VIA THE PHONE. STAY AT HOME AND WAIT FOR OUR CALL.'
'TOMMORROW MORNING, YOU'LL GET BACK YOUR DAUGHTER. WE DEMAND TWO MILLION IN USED BANKNOTES. KUSUNOKI KUNIKO SHALL HAND OVER THE MONEY IN A BAG.'

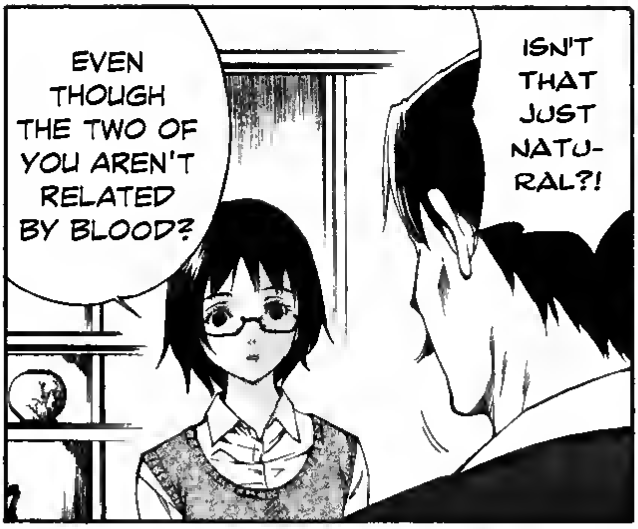
ACCORDING TO THE LETTER YESTERDAY...
...THE EXCHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE THIS AFTERNOON.
THE CULPRITS WILL GIVE YOU MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS.
WE'LL PUT A MICROPHONE ON YOUR JACKET.
ONCE THE CRIMINALS CALL YOU, TELL US WHAT THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY.
WE'LL START LOOKING FOR YOU THEN, AND WE'LL BE AT THE PLACE OF THE EXCHANGE BEFOREHAND.
...
AH...
YOU'LL PUT AN TRACKER ON THE BAG, TOO?
YES ...
...WE HID A LITTLE ONE THERE.

WHAT ABOUT ...
...A DEVICE THAT SPILLS WATERPROOF COLOR ONTO THE CULPRIT, ONCE THE BAG IS OPENED?
UAH ?!
NO, WE DON'T DO THAT. ANYTHING THAT COULD UPSETS THE CULPRIT COULD ENDANGER NAO-SAN.
THE MOST IMPORTAN THING IS NAO-SAN'S LIFE...
...NOT CATCHING THE CUL-PRIT!
whew
...
hem
THE MONEY IN THE BAG IS REAL, AND THE NOTES ARE USED, AS DEMANDED.
ACTUALLY, WE HAD A LONG DEBATE OVER PUTTING A TRACKER IN THE BAG OR NOT...
...AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD HAVE A MI-CROPHONE ON YOU.

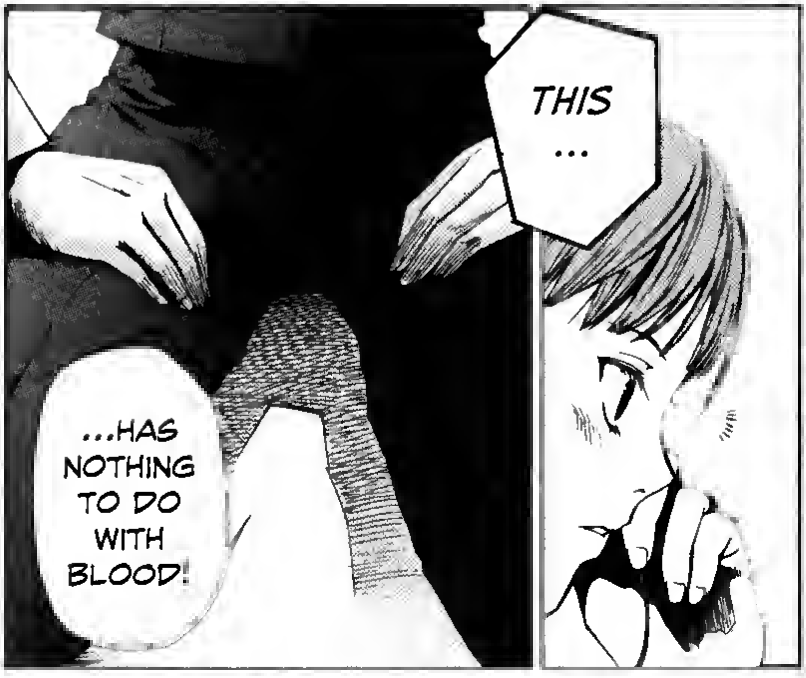
NO ONE CAN SEE ME.
NOW...!!
SO IT WILL BE HERE!
ONE ...
... TWO ...
AH!
OKAY! LET'S GO ON!!
OUCH!
AUGH ?!

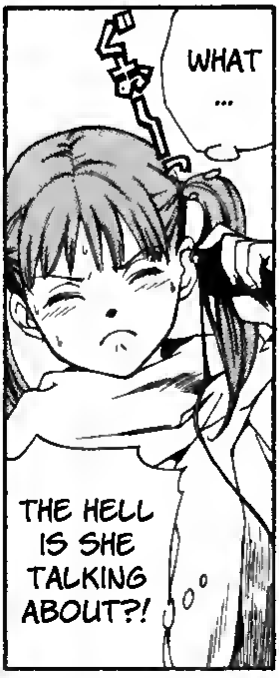
HM...
I BOUGHT A USUAL MAN'S COAT...
...HAT, SCISSORS, AND TAPE AT THE MALL.
THIS ONE IS GOOD!
WHEW ...
I'LL GET OUT AT TAKASHI. I THINK THAT WILL TAKE 30 MINUTES...
ゴトトン...
ゴトトン...
ドア

I HAVEN'T PAID ATTENTION!
I GOTTA CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOME!
AH!
...FOR NAO'S SAFE RETURN!
I PRAY...
...
BRING BACK NAO!!
MR. DIRECTOR...
I BEG YOU!
UGH...

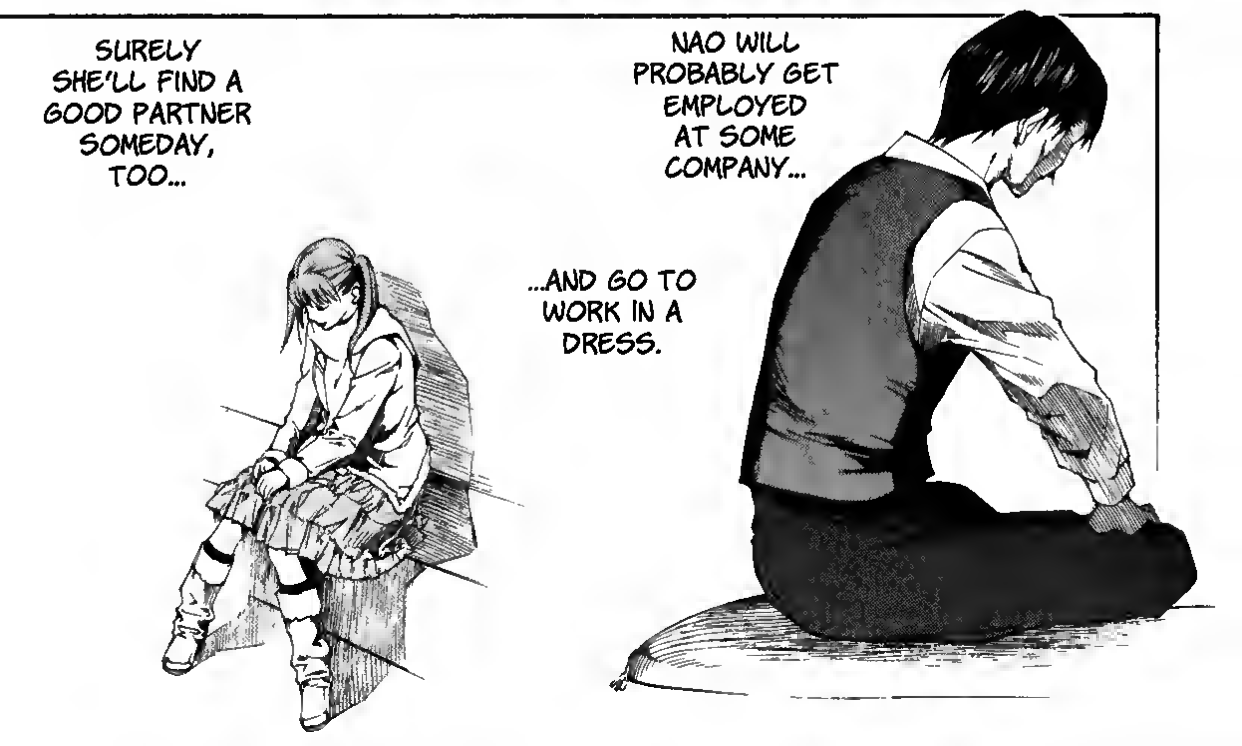

EVEN THOUGH THE TWO OF YOU AREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD?
ISN'T THAT JUST NATU-RAL?!

YOU'RE WORRIED...
...ABOUT NAO, RIGHT?


...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BLOOD!
THIS ...


WHAT ...
THE HELL IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?!

AS A PARENT I VISITED HER LESSONS AT SCHOOL.
WHENEVER I FELT DOWN, SHE KICKED ME IN THE BACK.
BUT THAT ISN'T THE REAL REASON EITHER...
I LOVED HER MOTHER!
...AND MAKEUP. AND I'LL STAND BESIDE HER, SHOOTING A PHOTO AT HER MAJORITY CELEBRATION.
AT SOME POINT SHE'LL BE OF LEGAL AGE. SHE'LL BE WEARING A BEAUTIFUL DRESS...
...AND I WANNA BE HAPPY TOGETHER WITH HER.
I WANNA BE AROUND AT HER GRADUATION CEREMONY LATER...

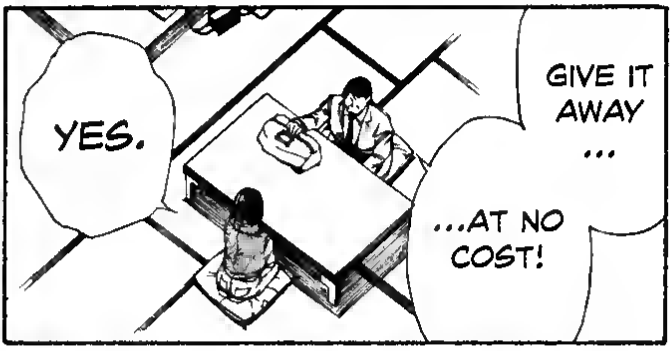

SURELY SHE'LL FIND A GOOD PARTNER SOMEDAY, TOO...
NAO WILL PROBABLY GET EMPLOYED AT SOME COMPANY...
...AND GO TO WORK IN A DRESS.

SHE'LL HAVE A BABY AND VISIT US EVERY NOW AND THEN.
...WITH GREY HAIR.
AT THAT TIME I'LL PROBABLY BE AN OLD, WEAK MAN...
...DUE TO SOME SENSE OF DUTY...
I DIDN'T RAISE NAO...
MAYBE I'LL DIE OF HAPPINESS, WHEN I SEE THE FACE OF MY GRAND-CHILD...
... IT'S JUST ...
...I SIMPLY WANNA BE HER FATHER!

...
TAKASHI.
NEXT
STATION...
JR
鷹師駅
TAKASHI STATION
SO!
THAT'S
DONE.
I GOTTA
HURRY!
IT'S
ELEVEN
O'CLOCK
ALREADY!
AH!
*菅原
*SUGAWARA.

...

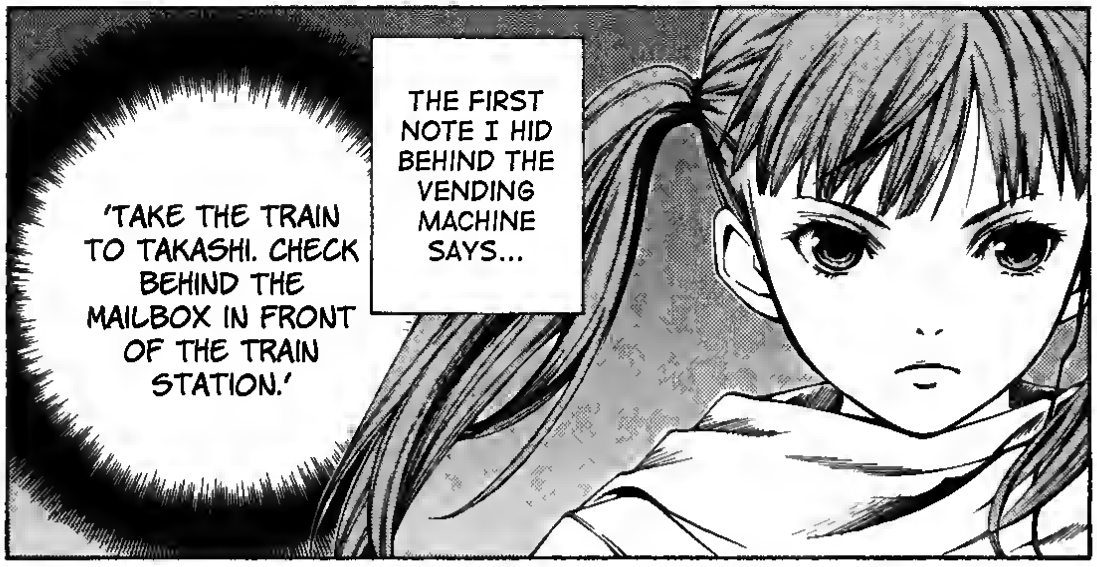
TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.
ALL RIGHT? THE MONEY IS IN THIS BAG.

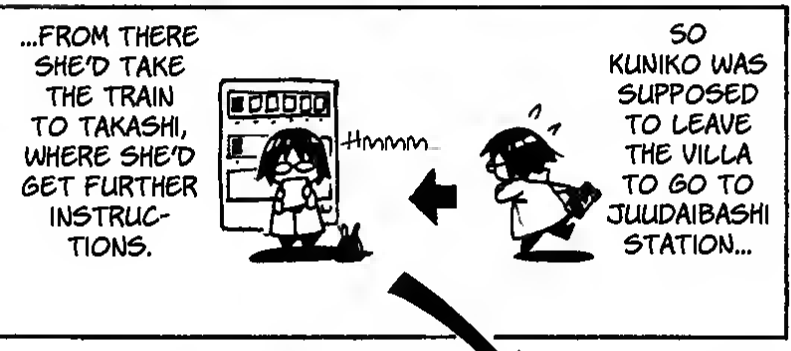

YES.
GIVE IT AWAY ...
...AT NO COST!

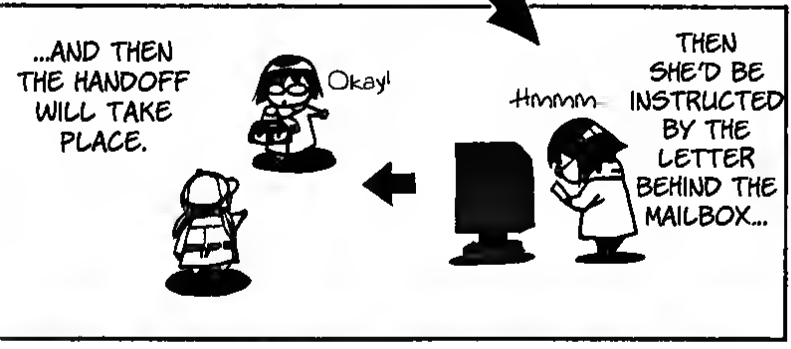
... DON'T LEAVE THE ROOM
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE KIDNAPPER MIGHT CALL.
HA, HA, HA ...DON'T WORRY. PLEASE STAY HERE WITH THE BAG...

AH ...
YOU'RE SURE I SHOULD CARRY THE BAG?
I'M AFRAID OF LETTING GO OF IT AND RUNNING AWAY DUE TO SHOCK SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN...

WE DECIDED THAT I'LL CALL HOME AT NOON.

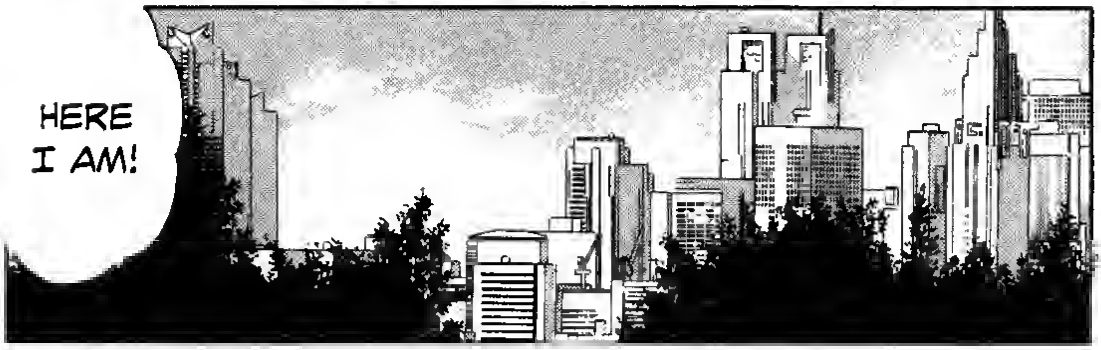

'TAKE THE TRAIN TO TAKASHI. CHECK BEHIND THE MAILBOX IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION.'
THE FIRST NOTE I HID BEHIND THE VENDING MACHINE SAYS...

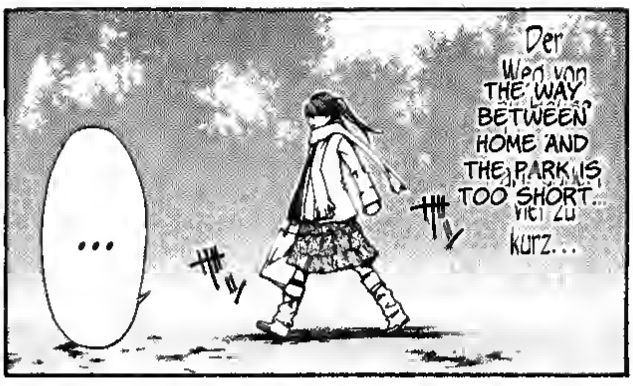

...FROM THERE SHE'D TAKE THE TRAIN TO TAKASHI, WHERE SHE'D GET FURTHER INSTRUC-TIONS.
Hmmm
SO KUNIKO WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE VILLA TO GO TO JUUDAIBASHI STATION...

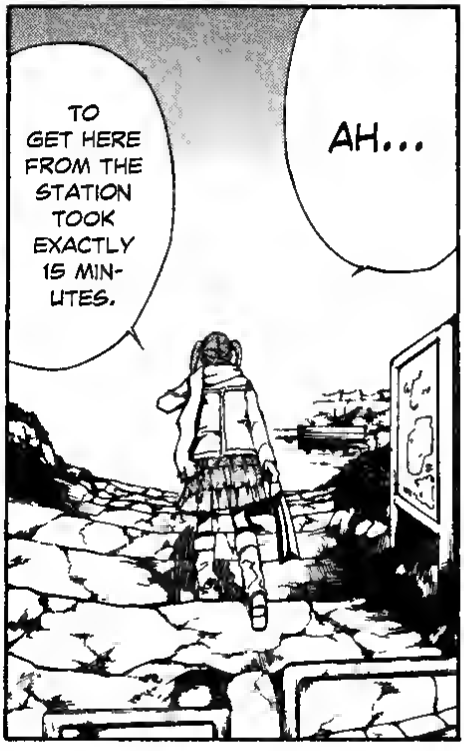

...AND THEN THE HANDOFF WILL TAKE PLACE.
Okay!
Hmmm
THEN SHE'D BE INSTRUCTED BY THE LETTER BEHIND THE MAILBOX...

OBVIOUSLY KUNIKO KNOWS THE AIMS, SO SHE JUST NEEDS TO ACT LIKE SHE'S READING THE LETTERS.
THAT'S HOW WE ARRANGED IT FOR THE POLICE

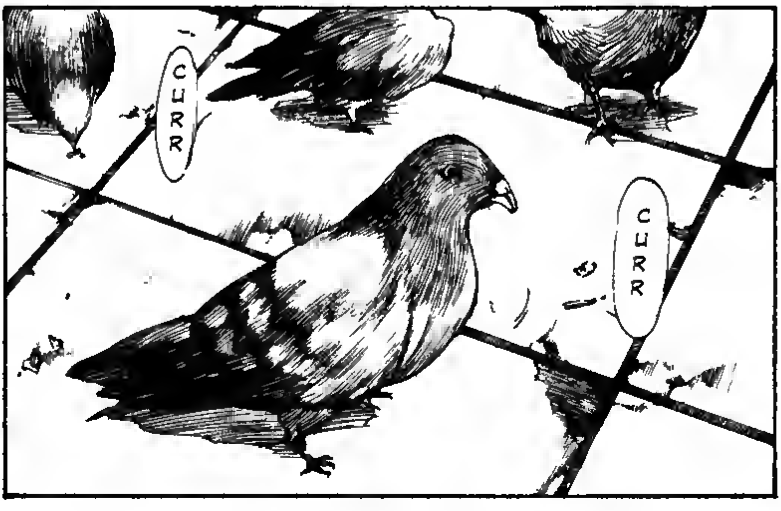
...THAT I HID BEHIND THERE EARLIER SAYS...
AND THE SECOND NOTE...
'GO TO THE BENCHES IN THE TAKASHI-RYOKUSHI-PARK.'


HERE I AM!

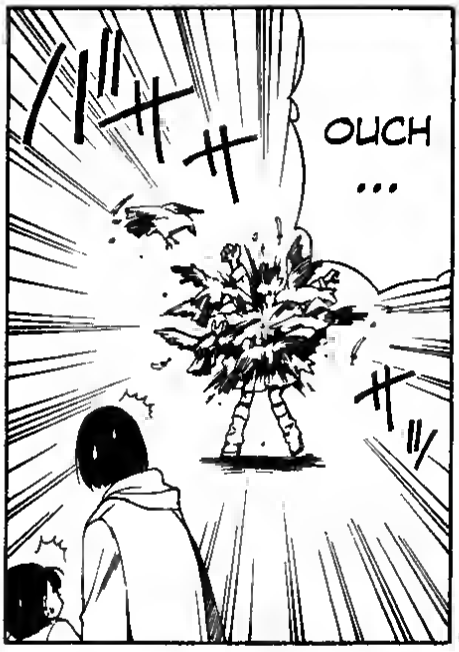

...
Der Weg von THE WAY BETWEEN HOME AND THE PARK IS TOO SHORT..
viel zu kurz...


AH...
TO GET HERE FROM THE STATION TOOK EXACTLY 15 MINUTES.

...AND MADE THE POLICE RUN AROUND MORE.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LEFT MORE INSTUCTIONS FOR KUNIKO...

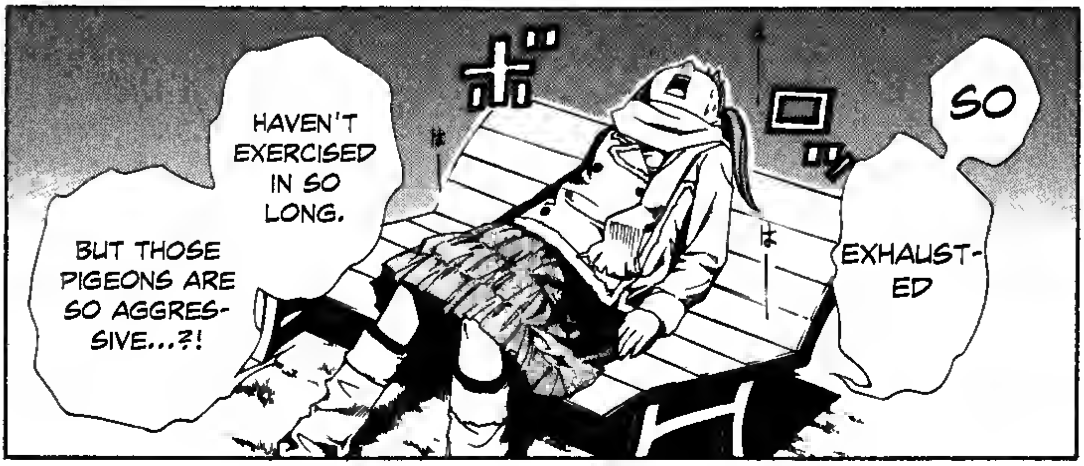

CURR
CURR

UAH!

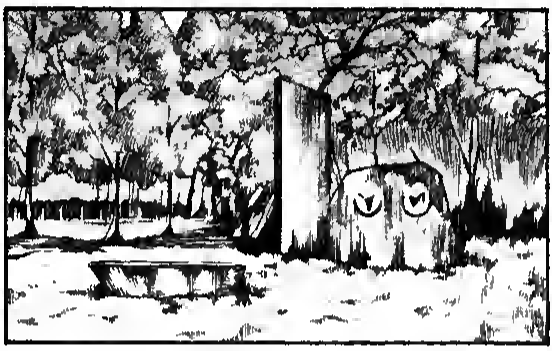

OUCH
...

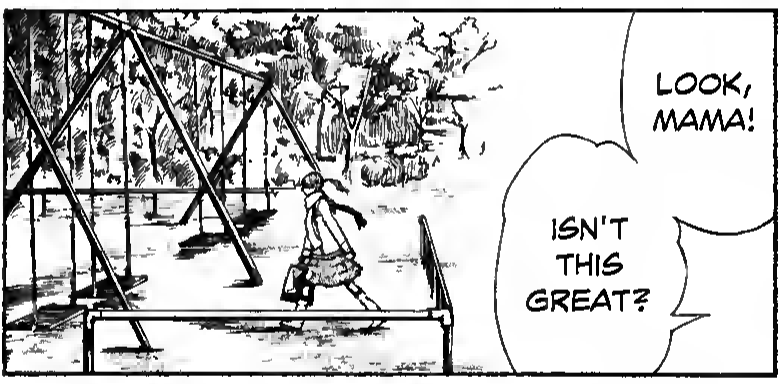
HM?!

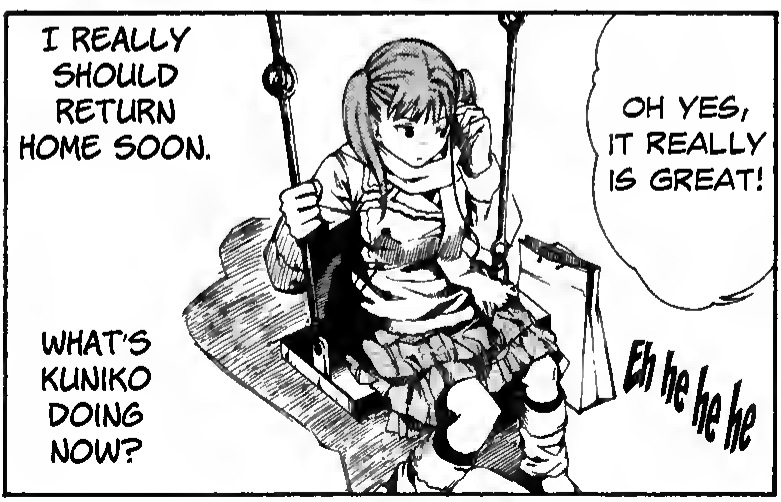
...ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE MORE ARRANGE-MENTS...
BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE. THERE JUST WASN'T...
HFF
HFF


HAVEN'T EXERCISED IN SO LONG.
BUT THOSE PIGEONS ARE SO AGGRES-SIVE...?!
SO
EXHAUST-ED

...THAT I HAVEN'T TAKEN A STROLL FOR AGES...
I JUST REALIZED...




LOOK, MAMA!
ISN'T THIS GREAT?

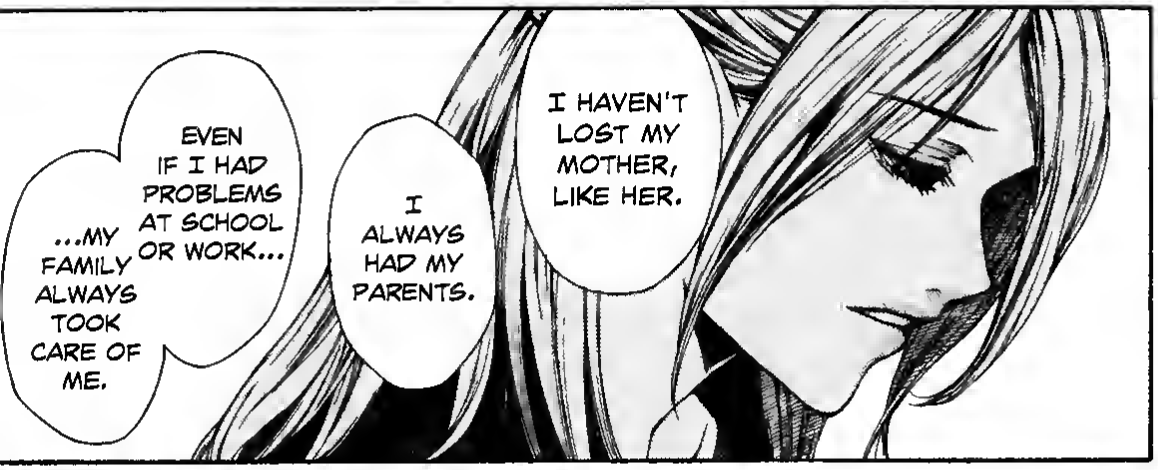

I REALLY SHOULD RETURN HOME SOON.
OH YES, IT REALLY IS GREAT!
WHAT'S KUNIKO DOING NOW?
Eh he he he

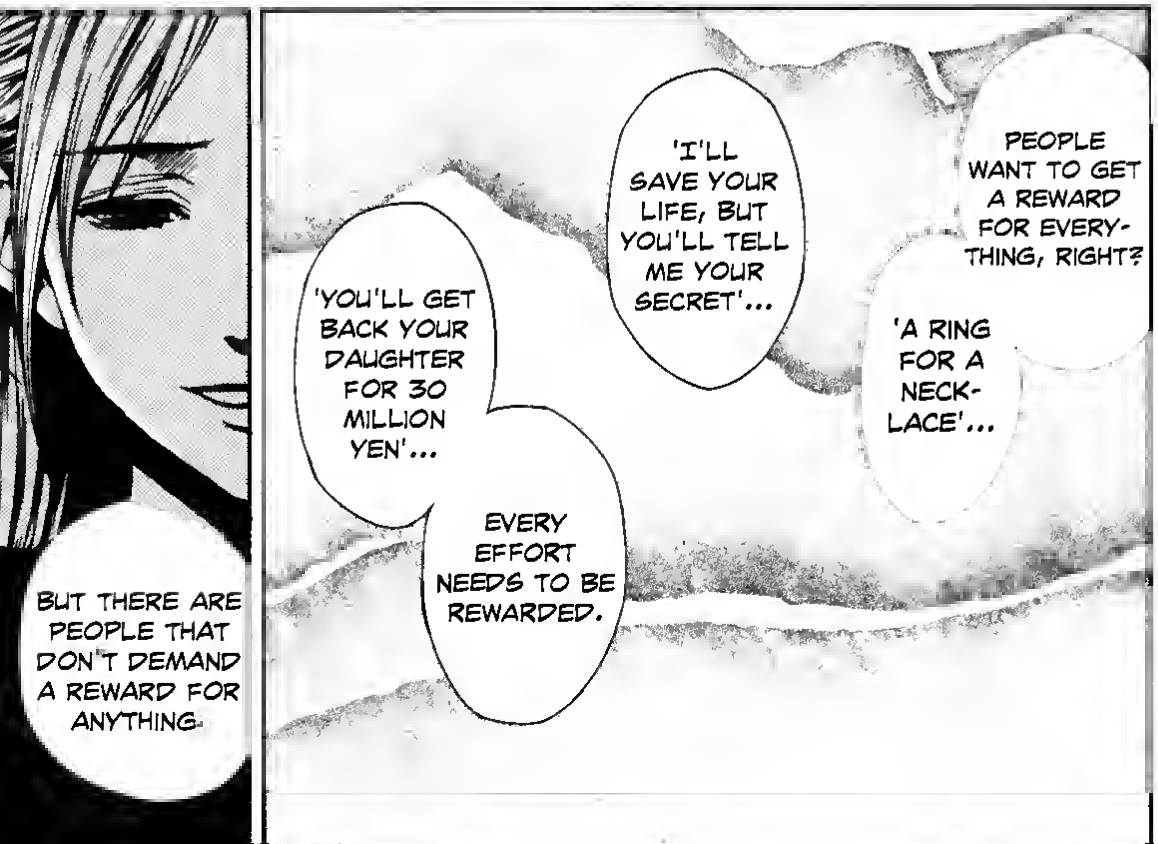
MAMA!

!
HUH? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
...I'M JUST TOO NERVOUS TO SIT DOWN...
I... UGH ...
YOU TRAINED WALKING WITH THE BAG?!
IT'S GONNA START SOON.
KY...
KYOUKO-SAN?!

I BEG YOU...
...DON'T MAKE ANY MIS-TAKES!
YOU WORRY QUITE A BIT ABOUT NAO YOURSELF, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT YOU TWO WEREN'T GETTING ALONG TOO WELL.
BEAUSE YOU WERE FIGHTING AND STUFF...
I THINK NAO HATES ME.
I WANTED TO STAND UP TO HER AND FIGHT BACK APPROPRI-ATELY,
BUT...
....
YES...

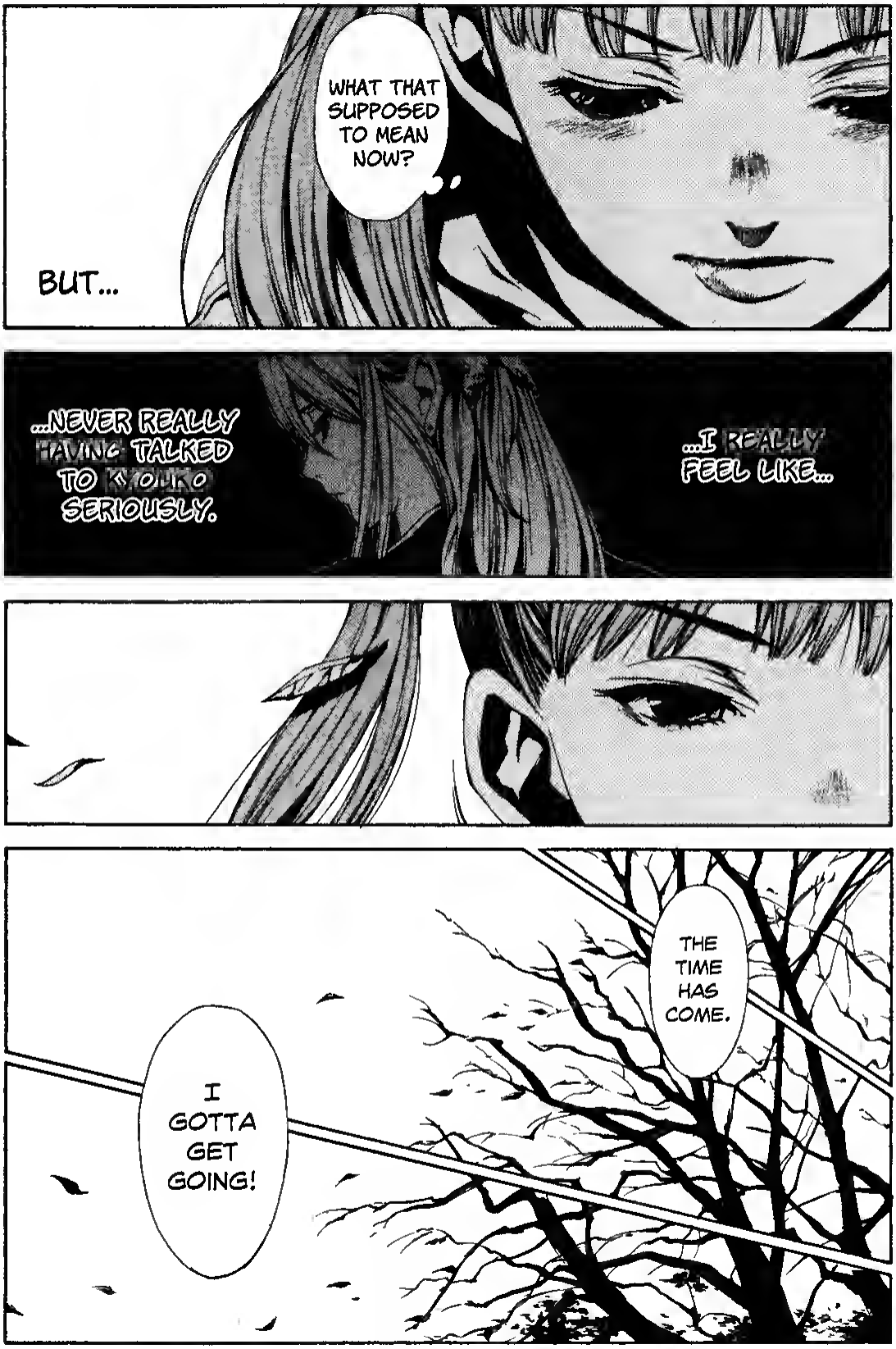
...I THINK I WAS WRONG.


I HAVEN'T LOST MY MOTHER, LIKE HER.
I ALWAYS HAD MY PARENTS.
EVEN IF I HAD PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL OR WORK...
...MY FAMILY ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF ME.


PEOPLE WANT TO GET A REWARD FOR EVERY-THING, RIGHT?
'I'LL SAVE YOUR LIFE, BUT YOU'LL TELL ME YOUR SECRET'...
'A RING FOR A NECK-LACE'...
'YOU'LL GET BACK YOUR DAUGHTER FOR 30 MILLION YEN'...
EVERY EFFORT NEEDS TO BE REWARDED.
BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT DON'T DEMAND A REWARD FOR ANYTHING.

WHEN I STUDIED IN AMERICA, I HAD AN ACCIDENT...
MY PARENTS IMMEDIATELY DROPPED EVERYTHING...
...AND CAME OVER FROM JAPAN.
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF THE WHOLE WORLD IS AGAINST ME, THEY'LL STILL BACK ME
BUT NAO...
...LOST THE HUMANITY EVERYONE NEEDS...
...AT JUST EIGHT YEARS OF AGE.
MAYBE SHE FELT THAT...
...SHE FELT THAT HER FATHER'S LOVE WAS JUST A LOAN...
AND THEN I SUDDENLY APPEARED.
SHE MUST HAVE THOUGHT OF ME AS SOMEONE THAT WANTS TO TAKE EVERYTHING SHE HAS.

...I'M TELLING YOU ODD STUFF LIKE THAT...
I'M SORRY...
WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING I HAD TO THINK ABOUT ALL THAT.
NOW I ASK MYSELF WHAT TO DO... I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.
HUH? THEN GO...
AH! I UGH... GOTTA GO TO THE TOILET...
NO!
SO THEN...
AH! KUNIKO-SAN...
Klick


BUT...
WHAT THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN NOW?
...NEVER REALLY HAVING TALKED TO KYOUKO SERIOUSLY.
...I REALLY FEEL LIKE...
THE TIME HAS COME.
I GOTTA GET GOING!

!!!
DO EVERY-THING AS AGREED.
OKAY!
IT'S THE KIDNAP-PER!!
H-
HELLO ...
...

!!
NAO!

PAPA...

YOU'RE OKAY?! WHERE ARE YOU?!
HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?!
NO...

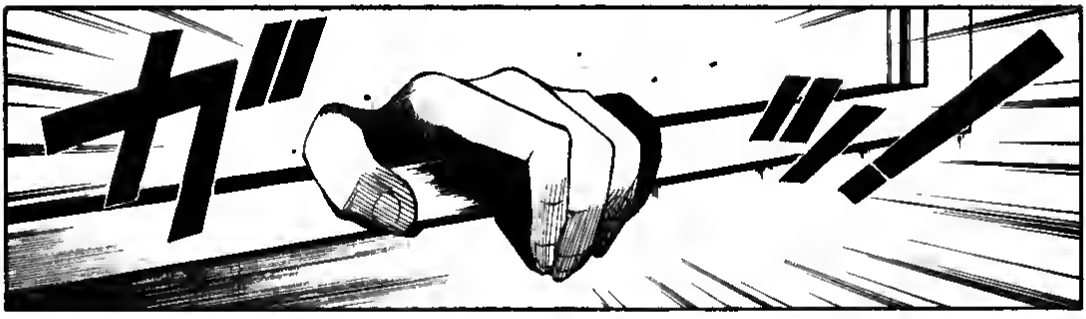
SORRY, PAPA, BUT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TELL YOU ANYTHING.
NOT ALLOWED?! IS THERE ANYBODY ELSE?!
.....

SENT KUSUNOKI KUNIKO TO THE JUUDAI-BASHI STA-TION.
SHE'LL SEARCH FOR THE COCA-COLA VENDING MA-CHINE IN THE ENTRANCE HALL...
...AND READ THE LETTER THAT'S TAPED TO THE BACK.
YOU CAN GO THERE BY CAR, TOO.
BUT ...
SHE MUST ENTER THE ENTRANCE HALL ALONE!

...YOU WON'T SEE YOUR DAUGHTER ALIVE EVER AGAIN.
CLICK
.....
IF SOMEONE ELSE APPEARS THERE, FOR EXAMPLE THE POLICE...
GET THE CAR READY IMMEDIATELY!
TELL KUSONOKI-SAN!
JUUDAIBASHI STATION!
I GOTTA ARRANGE THE NEXT STEPS FASTLY!
ガッ
FIVE MINUTES AFTER NOON.

I WAS HERE JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
THAT'S THE EMPTY HOUSE, I'M COMPLETELY SURE!
GRAB

NO ONE'S WATCH-ING...
NOW!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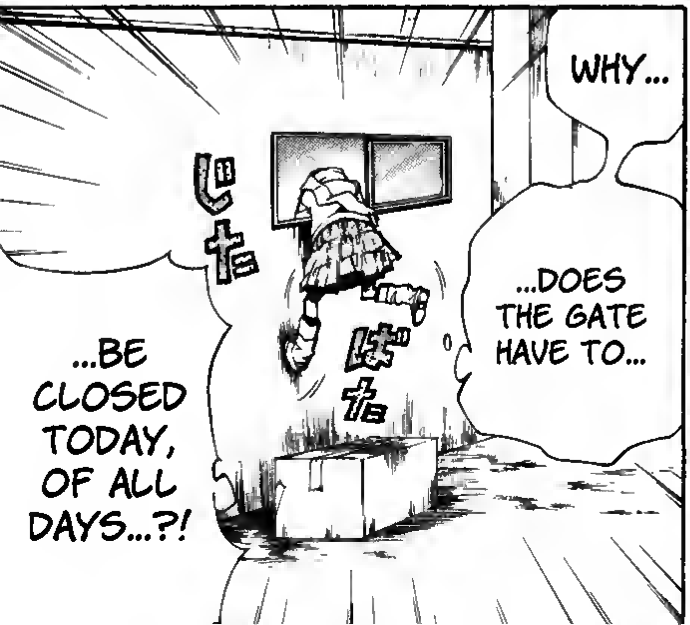
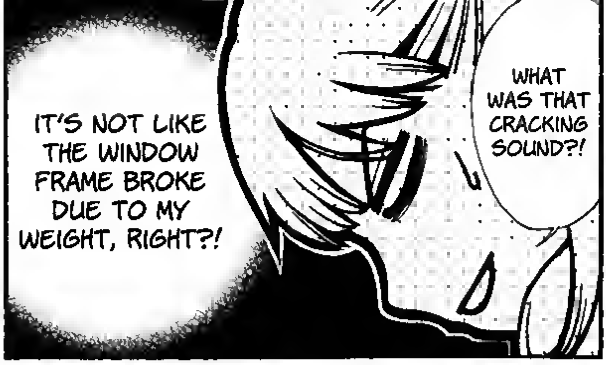
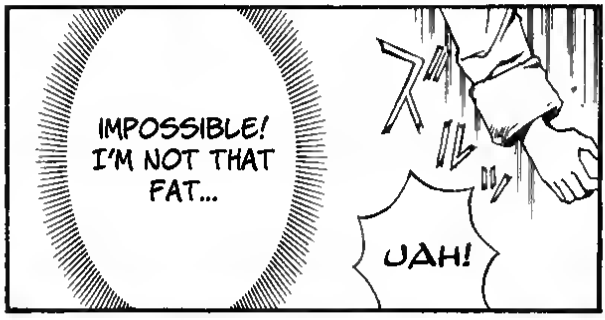
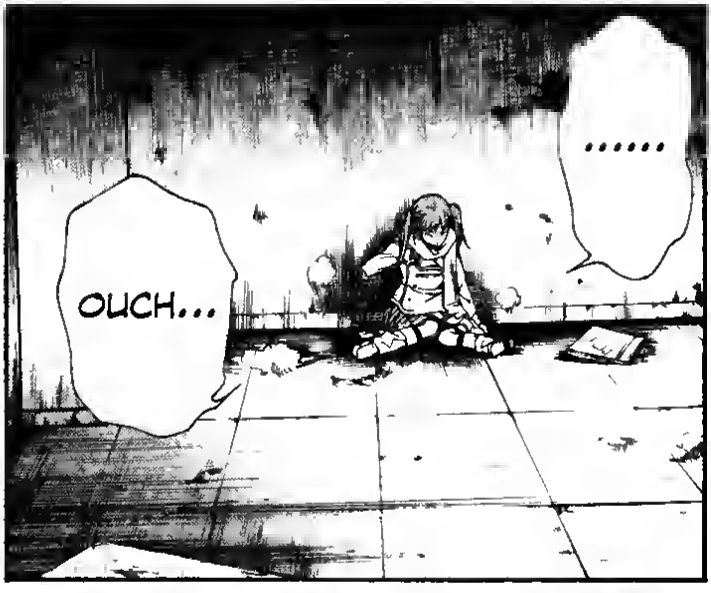
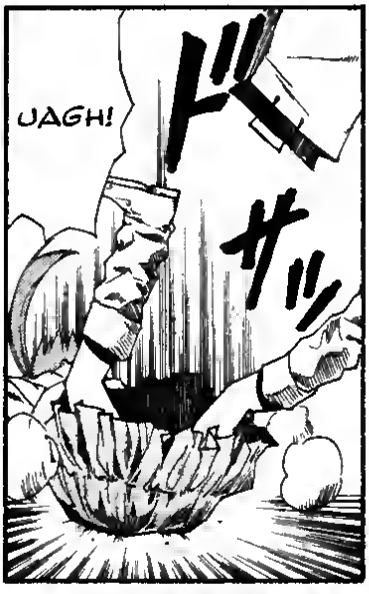

WHY...
...DOES THE GATE HAVE TO...
...BE CLOSED TODAY, OF ALL DAYS...?!

OOOOH!!


IT'S NOT LIKE THE WINDOW FRAME BROKE DUE TO MY WEIGHT, RIGHT?!
WHAT WAS THAT CRACKING SOUND?!


IMPOSSIBLE! I'M NOT THAT FAT...
UAH!


OUCH...
.....


UAGH!

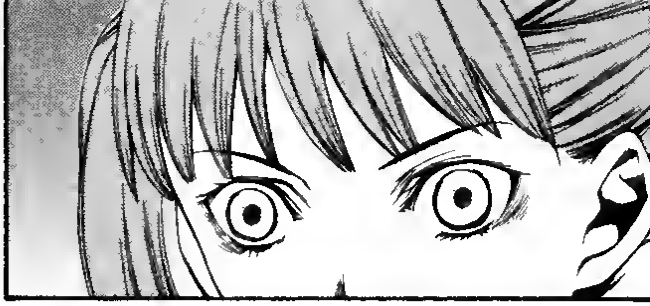
THE EXCHANGE WILL GO AS I SAY.
I'M NOT THAT FAT!

I TOLD HER BEFOREHAND TO GO TO THE BENCH CLOSEST TO THE BUILDING.
KUNIKO WILL CARY THE BAG FULL OF MONEY TO THE BENCH
I'LL OBSERVE EVERYTHING FROM THE WINDOW OF THIS BUILDING.
VERY GOOD.
I HAVE A NICE VIEW OF THE BENCH!
YUP...
I'LL THROW AWAY THE COAT AND THE HAT, AND KUNIKO WILL QUICKLY TIE ME UP.
The police
Gimme!
I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF AS THE KIDNAPPER AND GRAB THE BAG.
I'LL RUN INTO THE BUILDING, WITH KUNIKO FOLLOWING ME.
The Building
Stop!

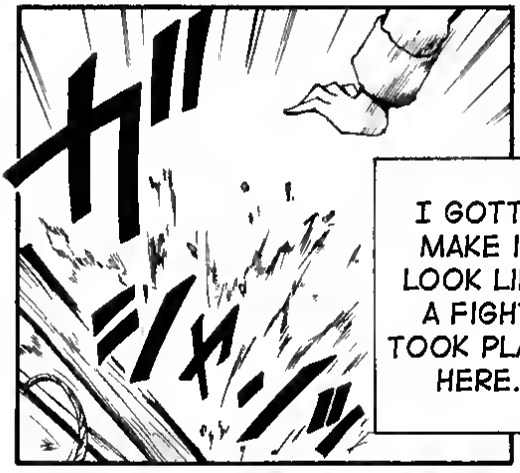
THE PROBLEM IS HOW DO I GET RID OF THE CLOTHES?
THE MAN ESCAPED THROUGH THE WINDOW TO THE STREET!!
WHEN THE POLICE FIND ME, I'LL SAY...
I HOPE SO...
AND I CAN RETURN WITHOUT BEING SCOLDED!
KUNIKO WILL HAVE FOLLOWED THE CULPRIT AND WON'T BE FIRED.
THAT WINDOW...
!
I CAN THROW OUT THE COAT AND HAT THERE AND RUN AWAY.
PERFECT!
カリ
ラッ

AWH, DAMN!! WHY DOES IT...
...STOP WORKING... RIGHT NOW?!
?!
...
HUH? I DON'T HEAR ANY-THING...
THE NEXT STEPS GOTTA GO QUICKLY...
FIRST, LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP WITH KUNIKO.
WHY?!
IT'S BROKEN ?!
SHIT, PROBABLY BROKE JUST NOW, WHEN I...
NOW I CAN'T HEAR WHAT'S UP WITH KUNIKO!!
FUCK!!

I JUST CAN'T MISS THE MOMENT KUNIKO ARRIVES AT THE BENCH.



CALM DOWN.
WE BOTH KNOW THE PLAN.

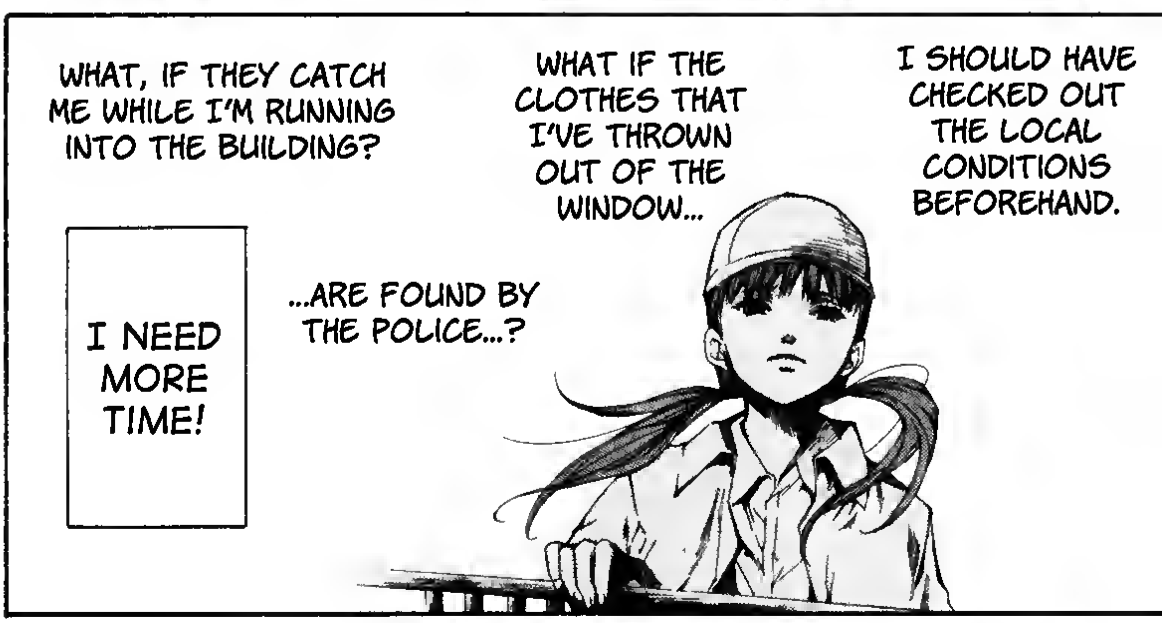

I GOTTA MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A FIGHT TOOK PLACE HERE.

UNTIL THEN THERE ARE SOME THINGS LEFT TO DO.

IF THERE WERE SOME PLATES TO...
...BREAK AT LEAST...!!
HAA
HAA
DOES THIS LOOK CONVINCING?!

AH...
RIP
MEANWHILE, I SHOULD CUT THE TAPE AND THE PLASTIC CORD...
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?!
.....
I NEED TRACES OF BINDINGS ON MY WRISTS AND ANKLES!!
UG GG GG GH ...
AT LEAST YOU GOTTA SEE SOMETHING AT MY WRISTS...
IT'S TEN TO ONE...
KUNIKO WILL COME SOON.
.....

IT'S AFTER ONE O'CLOCK, AND SHE'S STILL NOT AROUND!
SOME-THING ISN'T RIGHT HERE!
I SHOULD HAVE...
...PLANNED THIS ALL MUCH BETTER...
ON HER WAY TO THE PARK SHE MUST HAVE DEFINITELY PASSED THE MAIN STREET.
OR DID I MISS HER?


WHAT, IF THEY CATCH ME WHILE I'M RUNNING INTO THE BUILDING?
WHAT IF THE CLOTHES THAT I'VE THROWN OUT OF THE WINDOW...
I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED OUT THE LOCAL CONDITIONS BEFOREHAND.
I NEED MORE TIME!
...ARE FOUND BY THE POLICE...?

...IF MY MIND WAS JUST AS LARGE AS MY BODY...
SUDDENLY, I'M ASKING MYSELF...
I WASN'T THAT LARGE...
...AND RECOGNIZED THE WORRIES OF OTHER PEOPLE JUST AS LITTLE AS MY OWN LIMITS...
I MIXED UP THE TINY WORLD IN MY MIND WITH THE REAL WORLD...

I BETRAYED MY FAMILY WITH A THOUGHT-LESS LIE...
...AND HONESTLY TRIED TO EXECUTE A PLAN FULL OF MISTAKES...

I BELIEVED...
...EVERYTHING WOULD WORK OUT WITHOUT ANY HARM DONE.
I IMAGINED I COULD TAKE ON THE POLICE.
WHERE DID I GO WRONG...

HUH...
?!
THANK GOD! SHE'S COME!!
...
KUN-IKO!
I GOTTA GO TO THE WINDOW NEXT TO THE PARK NOW...
I CAN'T TURN BACK NOW!
NO MATTER HOW MANY REGRETS I HAVE, THERE'S NO GOING BACK ANY-MORE.

?!
AH...
'HM...'
'THIS IS SAID TO BE AN TOTALLY UNSECURE AREA. MANY...
...PICK-POCKETS AND STUFF...'
...!!

STEP
.....
I HAVE TO...
YOU'RE ALRIGHT?
EH?
YES...
I HAVE TO GET IT BACK!!!
.....

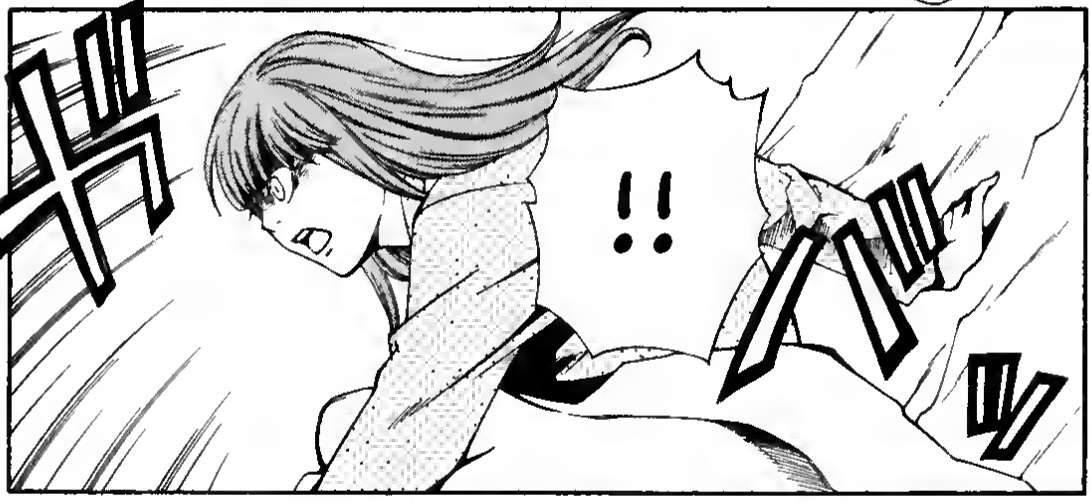
HAA
HAA
STEP
STEP
STEP
IF THAT MAN KEEPS ON RUNNING STRAIGHT AHEAD...
man
Building
...HE'LL PROBABLY PASS THE CROSS-ROADS AT THE BUILD-ING.
IF I MANAGE TO CATCH HIM THERE THEN...!!
MY ROUTE IS LONGER THAN HIM.
HAA
BUT HE'S SLOWED DOWN BY ALL THE PEOPLE.
HAA
OKAY, I JUST GOTTA PASS THAT CORNER NOW...

UGH
...
...!!
F-
ﾀｯ
FREEZE
...!

WHAT'S THAT...
...
SMELL?!
.....
AH! I REMEMBER!
NAO-CHAN!
NAO-CHAN!
...I WAS STILL VERY YOUNG... I ENTERED THE VILLA HOLDING MY MOTHER'S HAND.
WHEN I WENT TO THE SUGAWARAS FOR THE FIRST TIME...
MAMA!
COME NOW!
OTHERWISE I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT PLACE AND PRESSED MAMA'S HAND.
...AND I ALMOST SLIPPED ON THE POLISHED FLOORBOARDS.
THE LARGE CORRIDORS SHOCKED ME...
...SEEMED TO BE THE SAME.
AND MAMA...
SHE PRESSED BACK EVEN STRONGER.
...THAT I'D FORGOTTEN LONG AGO.
AT THE VILLA THERE WAS A WEAK SCENT OF WOOD...

.....
HM...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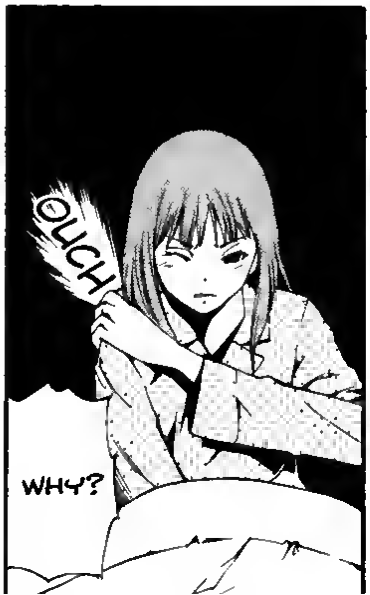
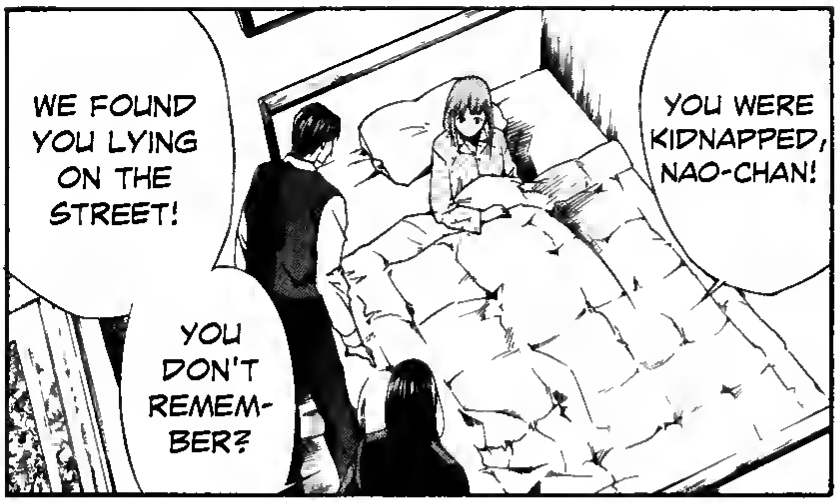
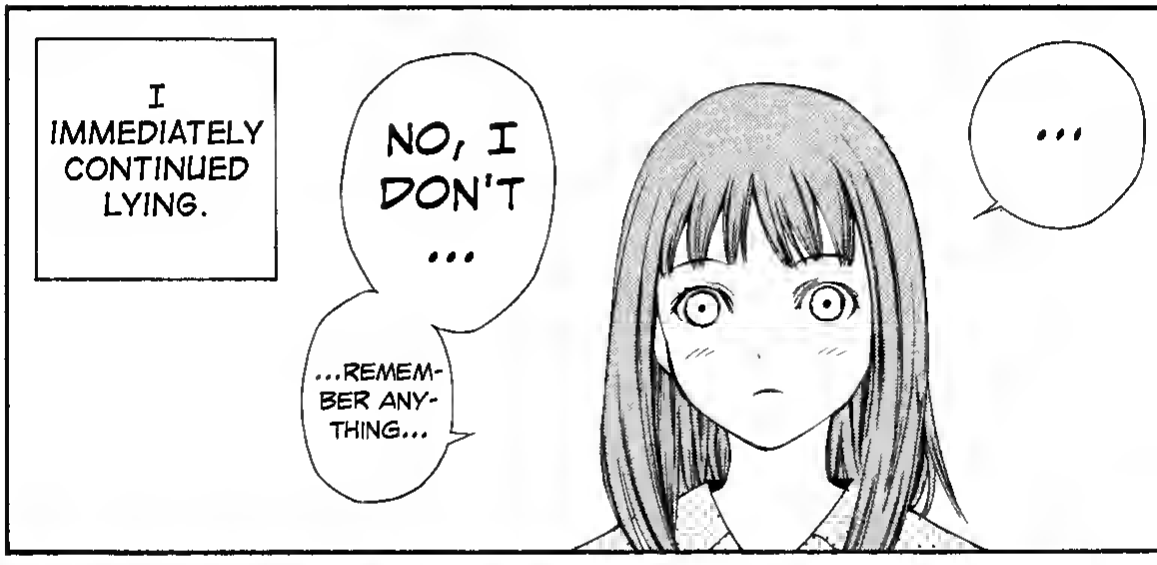

OUCH
WHY?

MY ROOM ...?!

ERI-SAN...
I RAN INTO THE PICK-POCKET!
THIS IS NO DREAM!
NAO-CHAN?
NAO?!
...
GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE BACK!
NAO!
UGH ...
THANK GOD YOU'RE CON-SCIOUS AGAIN!
I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WEREN'T WAKING UP...
Oooh... Nao...


WE FOUND YOU LYING ON THE STREET!
YOU WERE KIDNAPPED, NAO-CHAN!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

UNCONSCIOUS?
I...


I IMMEDIATELY CONTINUED LYING.
NO, I DON'T ...
...REMEMBER ANYTHING...
...

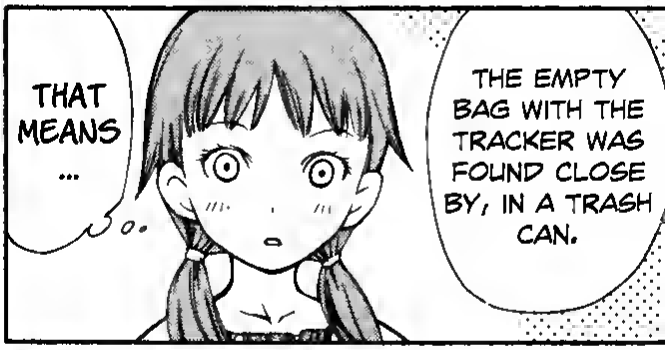
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE FACE OF THE CULPRIT...
...OR WHY I FELL DOWN.
STOP IT!
HAS THE DOCTOR DONE ANYTHING TO YOU, NAO?!
TEN MINUTES LATER THE DOCTOR CAME, HE DIAGNOSED IT AS AMNESIA DUE TO SHOCK.

IT'S BETTER TO FORGET BAD THINGS.
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
YES...
SO...
EH?!
?
KYOUKO!
SORRY!
OH, YES!
AH!

SEVERAL OF THE POLICEMEN OBSERVING KUSUNOKI SAW IT.
...THE CULPRIT GRABBED THE BAG AND RAN AWAY.
WHEN KUSUOKI WENT TO THE PARK...

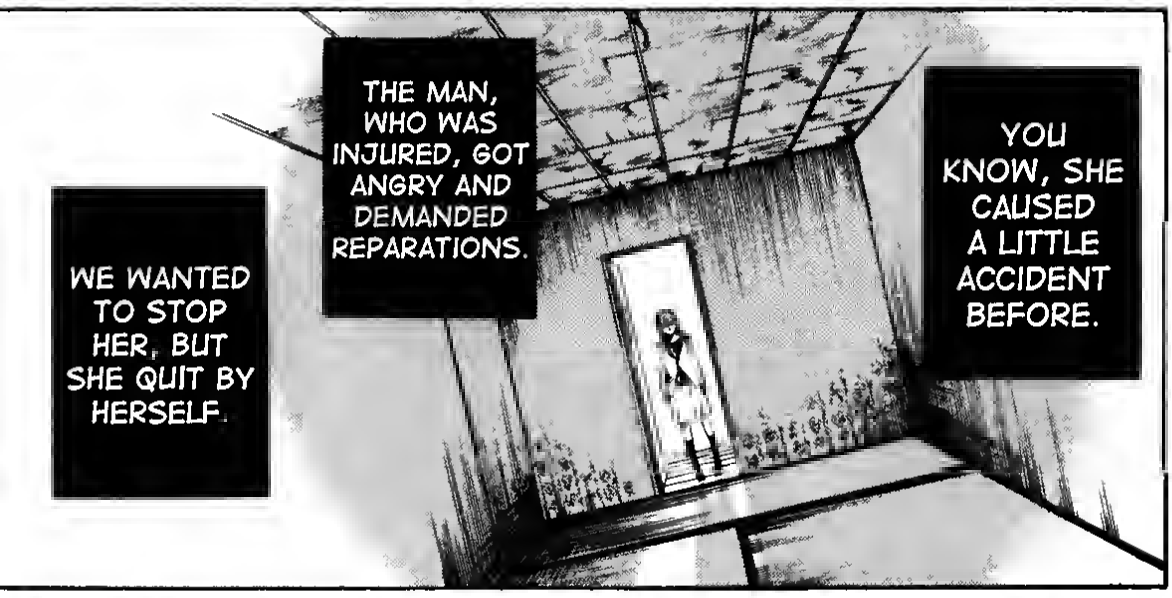
THE POLICE MISTAKINGLY TOOK THE MAN FOR THE KIDNAPPER!
ピカ！
AND AS LONG AS THE MAN ISN'T CAUGHT, THE TRUTH WILL REMAIN UNDISCOVERED!

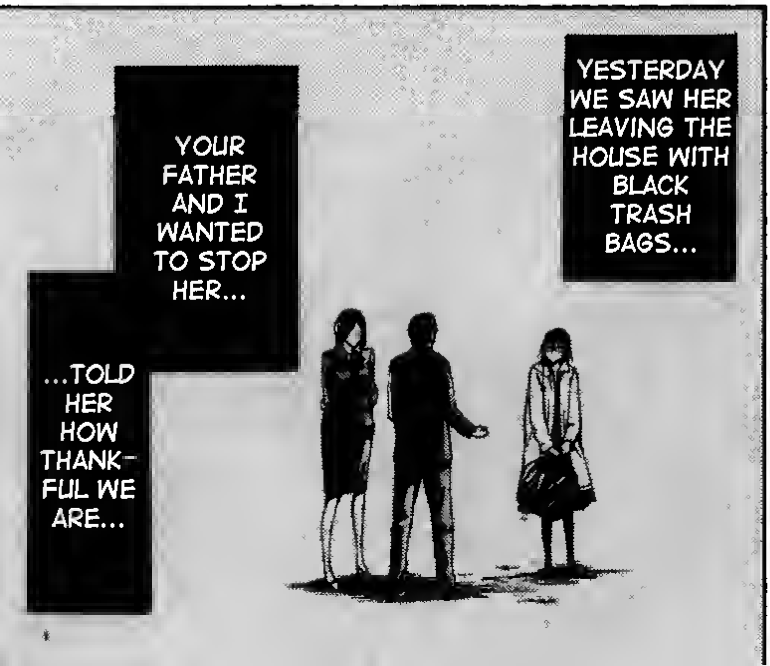
...CROWD WITH THE BAG.
THE MAN...
DISAPPEARD IN THE...

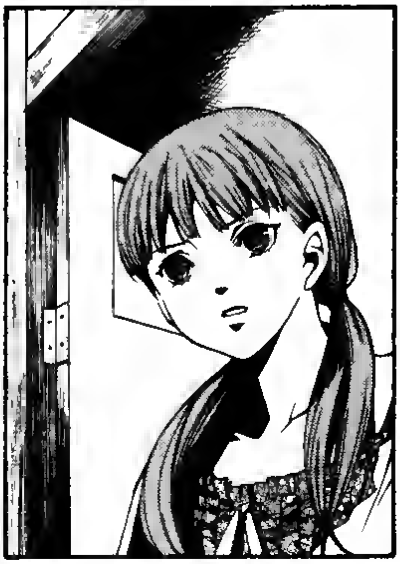

THAT MEANS ...
THE EMPTY BAG WITH THE TRACKER WAS FOUND CLOSE BY, IN A TRASH CAN.

BY THE WAY, HOW IS...
...KUSUNOKI-SAN DOING?
AH...
PLEASE, THIEF, DON'T LET THEM CATCH YOU!

...
ABOUT
HER...
AH...


THE MAN, WHO WAS INJURED, GOT ANGRY AND DEMANDED REPARATIONS.
YOU KNOW, SHE CAUSED A LITTLE ACCIDENT BEFORE.
WE WANTED TO STOP HER, BUT SHE QUIT BY HERSELF.


YESTERDAY WE SAW HER LEAVING THE HOUSE WITH BLACK TRASH BAGS...
YOUR FATHER AND I WANTED TO STOP HER...
...TOLD HER HOW THANK-FUL WE ARE...



...
BUT
...
SHE JUST SHOOK HER HEAD.
WHY ...?
YOU GOTTA THANK THE POLICE PROPERLY!
EH?
AH...
NO PROB-LEM. WE'RE HAPPY THAT YOU'RE HEALTHY!
SO, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE KIDNAP-PING...
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
DOESN'T MATTER, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HEALTHY!
SO, WE'LL SAY FAREWELL.
BUT NOW WE DON'T HAVE ANY LINK TO THE CUL-PRIT...
WE CAN'T HELP THAT.
...

AH!
HM...
REST A BIT IN YOUR ROOM, NAO!
NAO ?!
...OBSERVED THE HOUSE?
WAS IT ONLY YOU, WHO...
YES ...
...IT WAS ONLY US.

NO ONE ELSE?

THE POLICEMAN, WHOSE VOICE I HEARD THROUGH KUNIKOS CELL ONCE...
...WASN'T WITH THEM.

#viscans@irc.irchighway.net http://vi-scans.com/

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COME JOIN US

VILLAGE IDIOT SCANLATIONS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE LOOKING FOR AT LEAST 1 TRANSLATOR, AND 2 CLEANERS, A SHORT LIST OF OUR PROJECTS THAT NEED STAFF ARE:

LET'S LAGOON
FAMILY COMPO
GO! TENBA CHEERLEADERS
PUMPKIN SCISSORS
RULER OF THE LAND
SING YESTERDAY FOR ME
AND A FEW MORE...

MOST OF OUR PROJECTS NEED 1 OR 2 MORE STAFF MEMBERS PER SERIES TO SPEED THEM UP, SO IF YOU THINK YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT ISN'T BEING RELEASED FAST ENOUGH, PLEASE APPLY.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY VILLAGE IDIOT! PLEASE SUPPORT THE PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS BY PURCHASING THE ORIGINAL SERIES. WE HAVE A 2 DAY WAITING POLICY. IF THIS A NEW RELEASE AND YOU GOT THIS RELEASE FROM SOME WHERE OTHER THAN US THEN THAT SITE IS VIOLATING OUR HOSTING POLICY! PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THEM!
THIS IS THE 2ND PAGE IN THE CHAPTER!

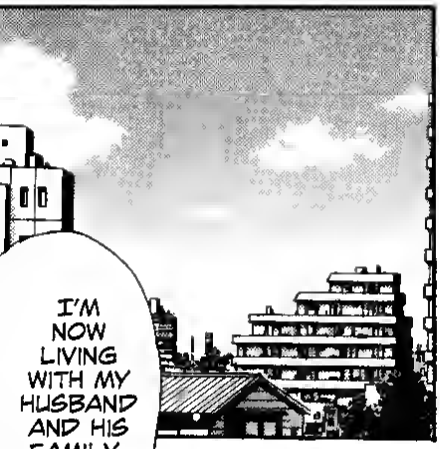
escape.4

Village Idiot Scanlations
Translator: Eito
Cleaner: Eito
Proofreader: Thyme
Typsetter: Revan
Quality Checker: ZeroDC

THE KIDNAPPING DIDN'T REALLY CAUSE MUCH OF A RUCKUS.
PAPA WAS VERY CAREFUL TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
EVEN IN THE FAMILY, THERE WERE FEW WHO KNEW ABOUT IT.
TEN MONTHS LATER, I BECAME A MIDDLE SCHOOL SENIOR.
I sported twin-tails back then.
THEN...
I GOT A CARD.
!
I STUDIED HARD FOR THE UPCOMING EXAMS.
ZZ
THE SENDER WAS KUSONOKI KUNIKO...

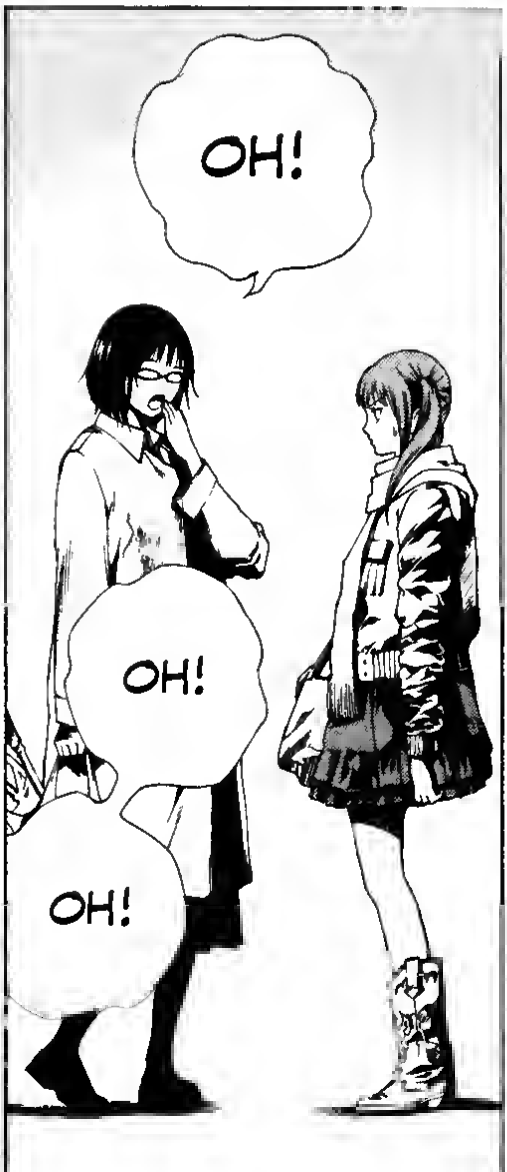
"I GOT MARRIED."
SHE LEFT AN ADDRESS, TOO.
WHERE IS THAT? NEVER HEARD OF IT.
AFTER THE WHOLE KIDNAPPING AFFAIR...
KUNIKO HADN'T CONTACTED ME EVEN ONCE.
I WANTED TO SEE HER...
...AND TALK ABOUT MANY THINGS.
GOTTA TAKE A BUS NOW...
!

.....
AH!
SOR—


I'M NOW LIVING WITH MY HUSBAND AND HIS FAMILY.

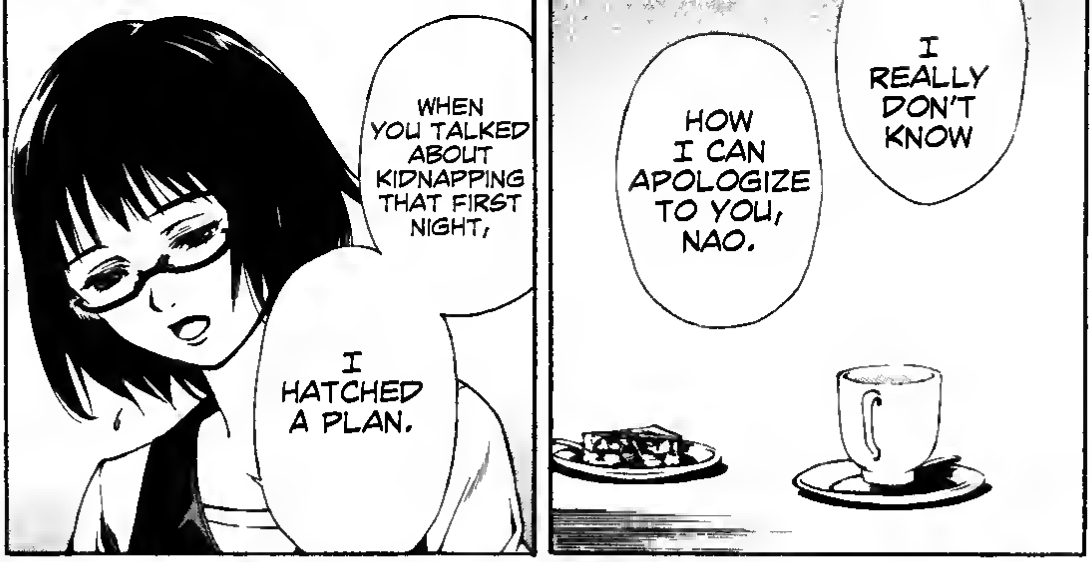
HELLO!
ガラッ

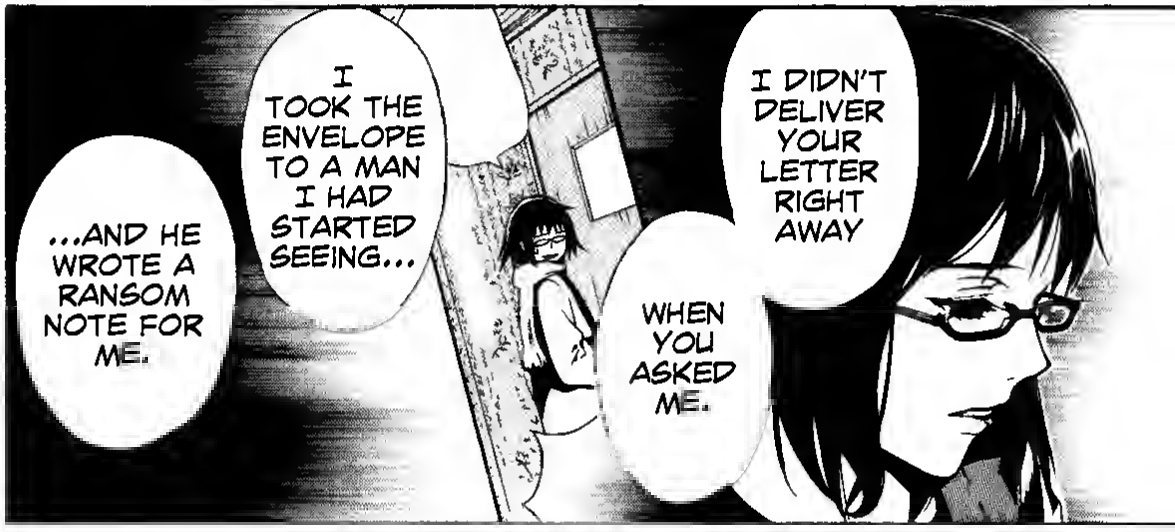
LONG TIME NO SEE!


OH!
OH!
OH!

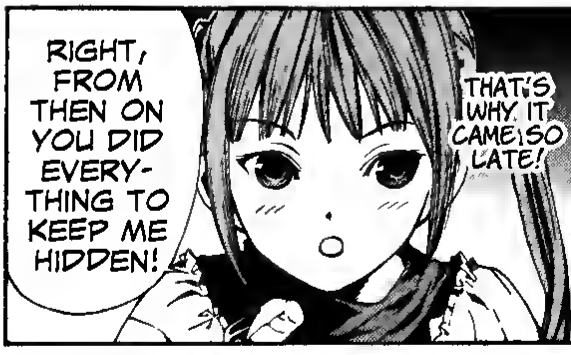
THAT REALLY TOOK YOU LONG...
WELCOME BACK.
AH!
HELLO!
I REMEMBER THAT HOARSE VOICE...
YEAH, I'M SURE OF IT!
HI.
YOU WERE THE PICKPOCKET, WEREN'T YOU?

RIGHT AFTER I WAS RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY.
I HAD WONDERED WHY NONE OF THE POLICEMEN
THAT HOARSE VOICE... I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE!
HAD THAT IRRITATING VOICE.
WHEN I SAW A COPY OF THE RANSOM NOTE, I WAS EVEN MORE CONFUSED.
IT WASN'T A COLLAGE OF TEXT CUT FROM A NEWSPAPER,
BUT WRITTEN WITH A TYPEWRITER. IT WAS A DIFFERENT "RANSOM NOTE!"
I REALLY WAS KIDNAPPED!
WITHOUT REALISING I WAS HELD CAPTIVE
IT WAS ALL FILTERED THROUGH KUNIKO!
ALL THE INFORMATION I RECIEVED IN THAT ROOM...
THAT MEANS...
I HAD BUT A GLIMPSE
OF THE ENTIRE PICTURE.
AND LOCKED IN THAT ROOM BY KUNIKO!

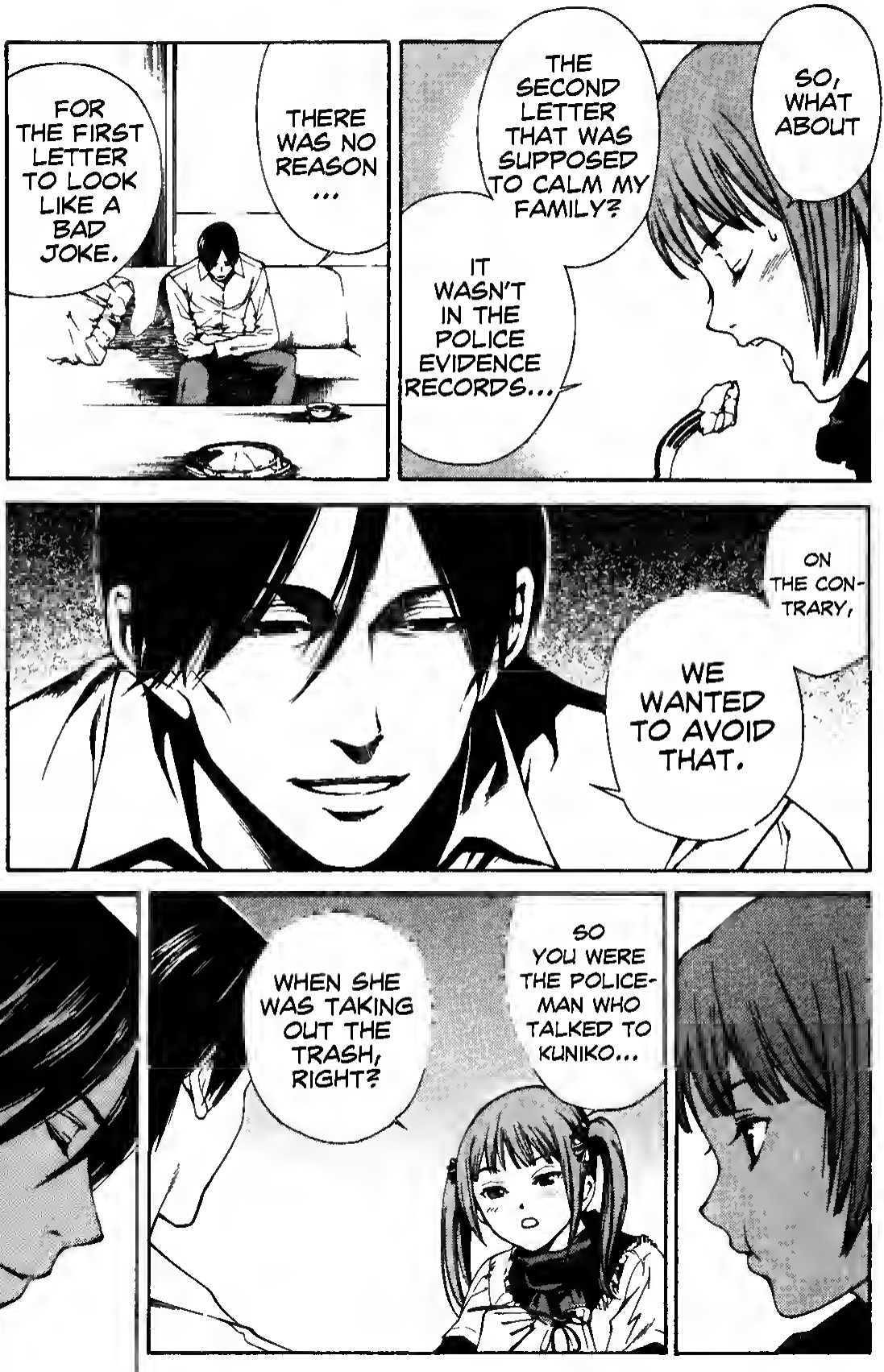

WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT KIDNAPPING THAT FIRST NIGHT,
I HATCHED A PLAN.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW
HOW I CAN APOLOGIZE TO YOU, NAO.


I DIDN'T DELIVER YOUR LETTER RIGHT AWAY
WHEN YOU ASKED ME.
I TOOK THE ENVELOPE TO A MAN I HAD STARTED SEEING...
...AND HE WROTE A RANSOM NOTE FOR ME.

WHENEVER YOU BURST OUT LAUGHING, OR SNEEZED,
OR HORSED AROUND TO RELIEVE BOREDOM, I THOUGHT I'D GET A HEART ATTACK.


RIGHT, FROM THEN ON YOU DID EVERY-THING TO KEEP ME HIDDEN!
THAT'S WHY IT CAME SO LATE!

MY WHOLE PLAN WOULD HAVE GONE TO WASTE!


FOR THE FIRST LETTER TO LOOK LIKE A BAD JOKE.
THERE WAS NO REASON ...
SO, WHAT ABOUT
THE SECOND LETTER THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO CALM MY FAMILY?
IT WASN'T IN THE POLICE EVIDENCE RECORDS...
ON THE CONTRARY,
WE WANTED TO AVOID THAT.
SO YOU WERE THE POLICEMAN WHO TALKED TO KUNIKO...
WHEN SHE WAS TAKING OUT THE TRASH, RIGHT?

MY CO-WORKERS LIKE TO GOSSIP...
IS THERE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE KIDNAPPER?
I ACTED AS A POLICE-MAN WHO HAD STAKED OUT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE.
OUR CONVERSA-TIONS WERE ARRANGED BEFOREHAND.
SHE CALLED YOU OUT BEFOREHAND TO ENSURE THAT YOU COULD HEAR US.

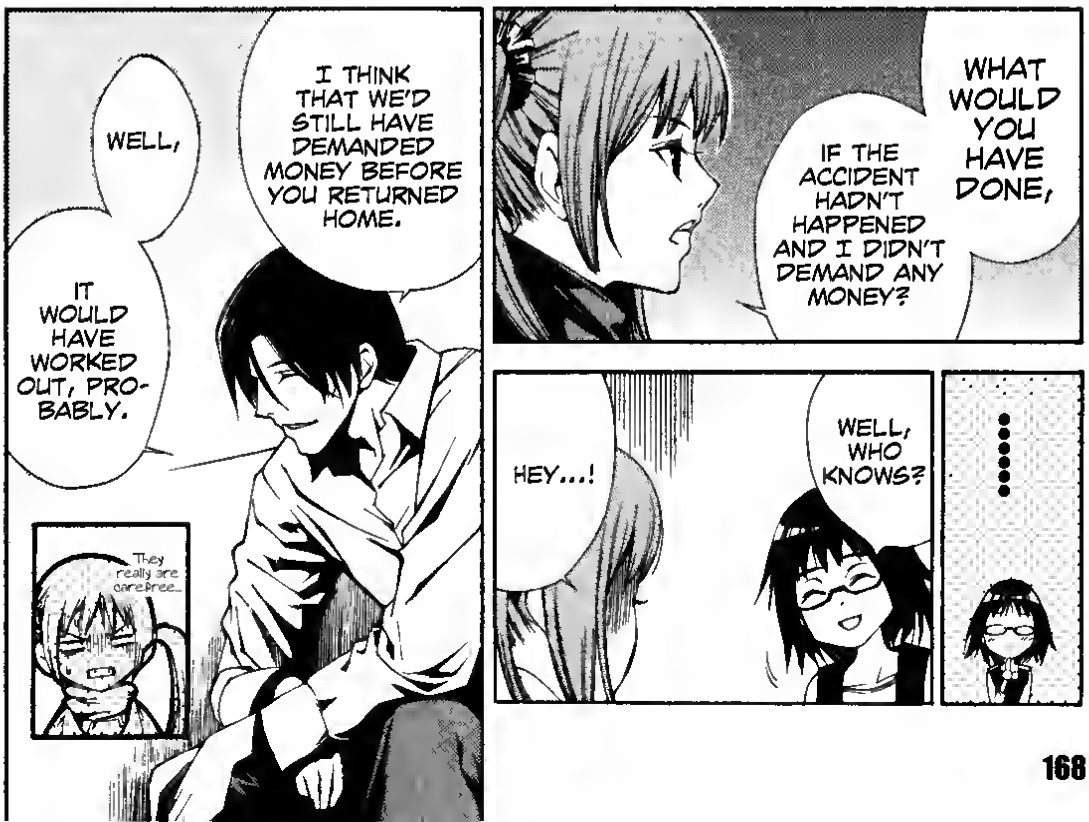
BUT...
THE DEMANDED SUM WAS 30 MILLION, NOT TWO!
I SUDDENLY REMEM-BERED...

THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER WERE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'D WRITTEN, TOO.
THE DROP-OFF TIME AND KUNIKO'S PARTICIPATION REMAINED UNCHANGED.

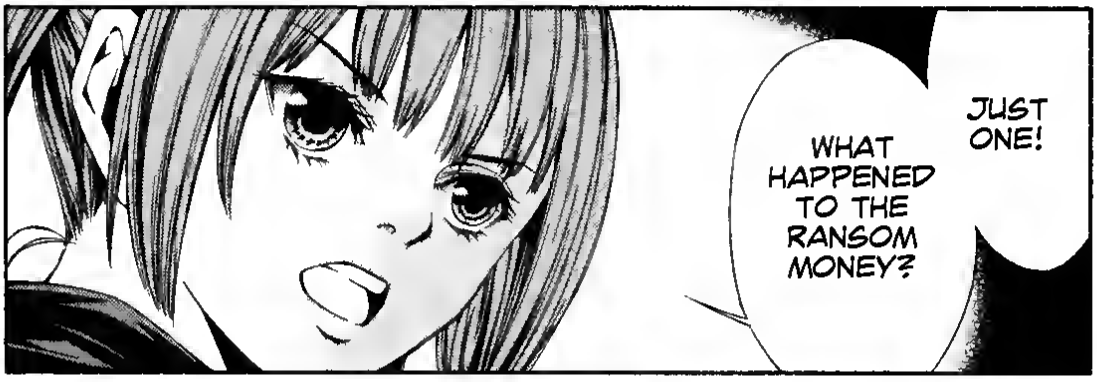
...WHAT KYOKO SAID, BEFORE KUNIKO WENT TO THE DROP-OFF POINT.
"WE'LL RELEASE YOUR DAUGHTER FOR 30 MILLION YEN..."
SHE SURELY THOUGHT OF THE LATTER BACK THEN.
...
I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO GO AS FAR AS TO DEMAND RANSOM MONEY.
A LETTER WITH A MONETARY DEMAND...
WOULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.
THE TWO OF US WANTED TO MAKE A DEAL COMPLETELY WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE.
BUT...
THEN THAT ACCIDENT HAPPENED.

THAT EVENING WHEN THE DRIVER DODGED ME AND SLAMMED INTO THE WALL...
THAT WAS WHEN YOU BEGAN TO THINK OF EXTORTING MONEY.
THAT REALLY WAS UN-EXPECTED.

SO KUNIKO REALLY USED MY PLAN TO GET HOLD OF THE RANSOM MONEY.

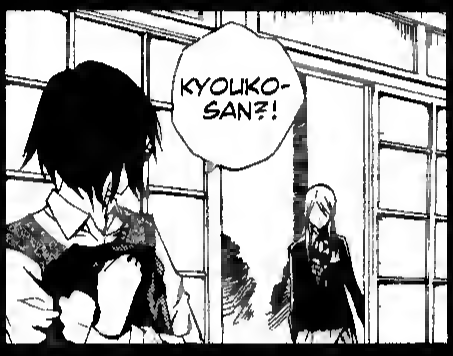

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE,
IF THE ACCIDENT HADN'T HAPPENED AND I DIDN'T DEMAND ANY MONEY?
I THINK THAT WE'D STILL HAVE DEMANDED MONEY BEFORE YOU RETURNED HOME.
WELL,
IT WOULD HAVE WORKED OUT, PRO-BABLY.
They really are carefree...
HEY...!
WELL, WHO KNOWS?

AND?
ANY MORE QUESTIONS?


JUST ONE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RANSOM MONEY?

PAPA HAD ASSURED ME THAT HE HAD PROVIDED THE 30 MILLION IN CASH.
ERI-SAN SAID THAT THE BAG HAD BEEN FOUND WITH THE TRANSMITTER, BUT WITHOUT THE MONEY.
WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

AFTER SHE HAD TALKED TO KYOUKO, SHE TOOK THE BAG WITH HER TO THE TOILET.



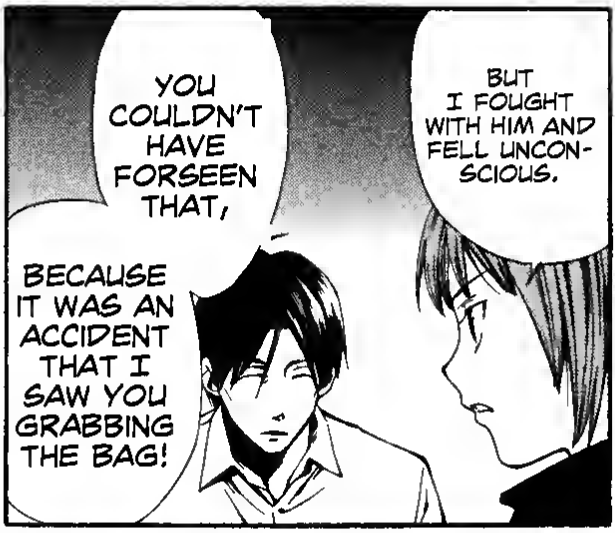
KUNIKO HAD ASKED THE POLICEMAN IF SHE COULD WALK AROUND WITH THE BAG "TO PRACTICE..."

KYOUKO WANTED TO TELL KUNIKO, BUT SHE ACTED LIKE SHE HAD OVERHEARD IT.

WITH NO ONE TO SEE HER, KUNIKO COULD HIDE AWAY THE 30 MILLION YEN IN THAT ROOM.

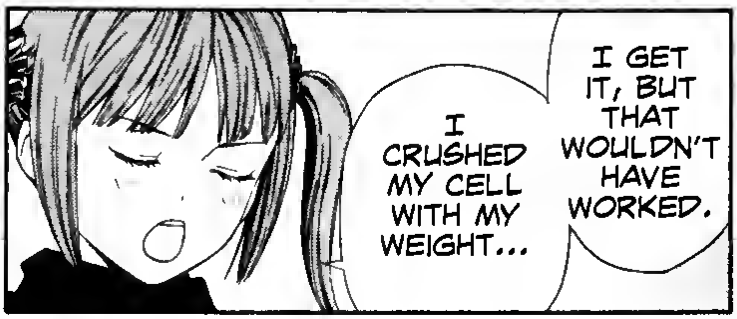
IF THERE WASN'T A HIDDEN PLACE AT THE HOUSE, YOU'D HAVE LEFT THE MONEY SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY TO THE DROP-OFF!
YOU COULD HAVE GRABBED THE BAG AND ESCAPED ANYWAYS.
YOU COULD HAVE THROWN AWAY THE BAG WHILE EN ROUTE, PUT ON A HAT AND PAIR OF SUNGLASSES, AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE CROWD.

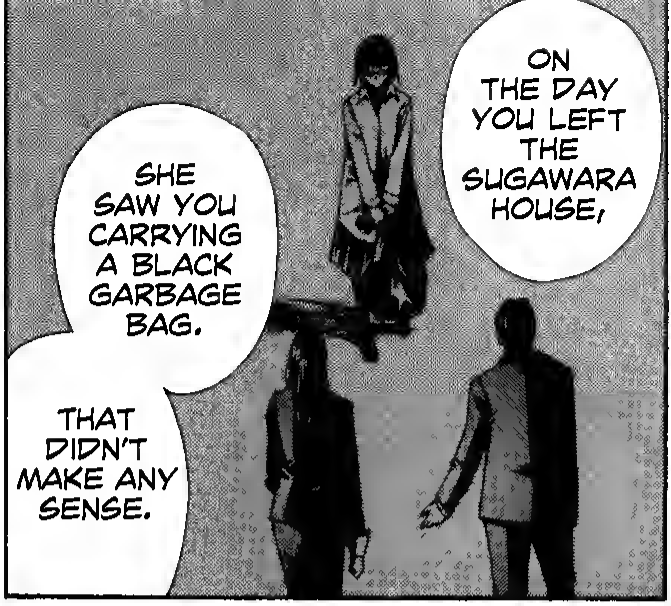
IF I HADN'T GONE AFTER YOU... WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME THEN?
WOULD I STILL HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PARK?
WELL...


BUT I FOUGHT WITH HIM AND FELL UNCONSCIOUS.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE FORSEEN THAT,
BECAUSE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT I SAW YOU GRABBING THE BAG!

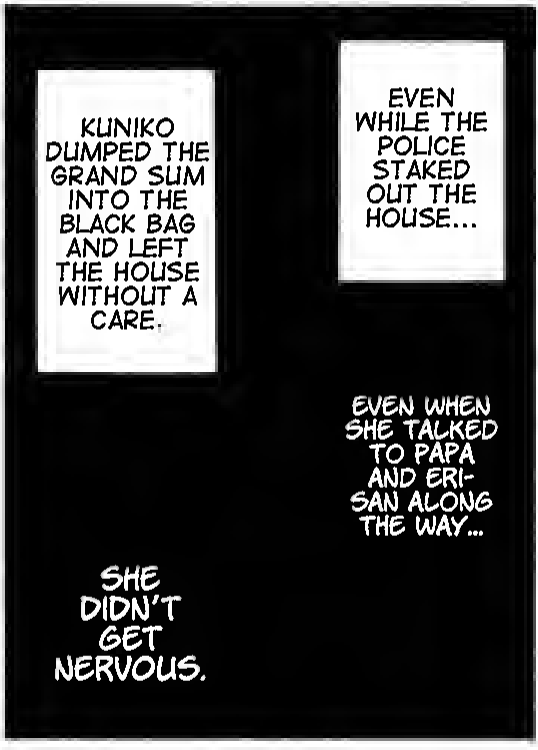
YOUR WEIGHT?!
WELL, YOU KNOW...
"COUNTRY MUM" IS SOOO TASTY!
Just too good.
TOO TASTY!!

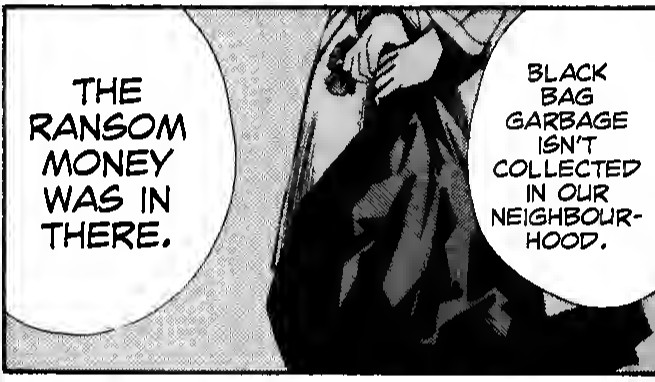
I WOULD HAVE CALLED TO TELL YOU THAT THE BAG HAD BEEN STOLEN,
AND TO CONVINCE YOU TO BLAME EVERYTHING ON THE PICK-POCKET.

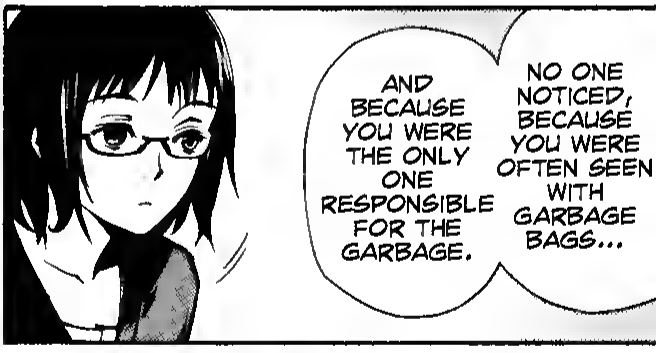

I GET IT, BUT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED.
I CRUSHED MY CELL WITH MY WEIGHT...


ON THE DAY YOU LEFT THE SUGAWARA HOUSE,
SHE SAW YOU CARRYING A BLACK GARBAGE BAG.
THAT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

I REMEMBERED WHAT ERI-SAN SAID...
BY THE WAY...

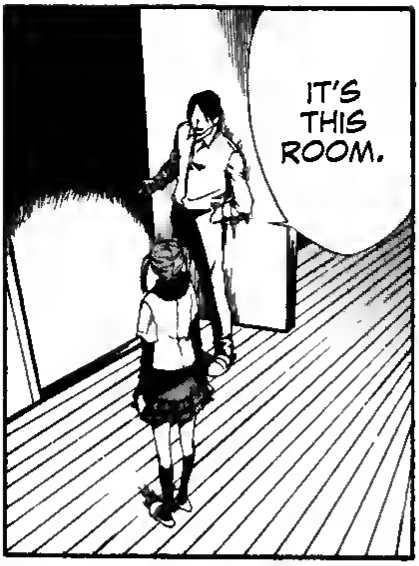

KUNIKO DUMPED THE GRAND SUM INTO THE BLACK BAG AND LEFT THE HOUSE WITHOUT A CARE.
EVEN WHILE THE POLICE STAKED OUT THE HOUSE...
EVEN WHEN SHE TALKED TO PAPA AND ERI-SAN ALONG THE WAY...
SHE DIDN'T GET NERVOUS.

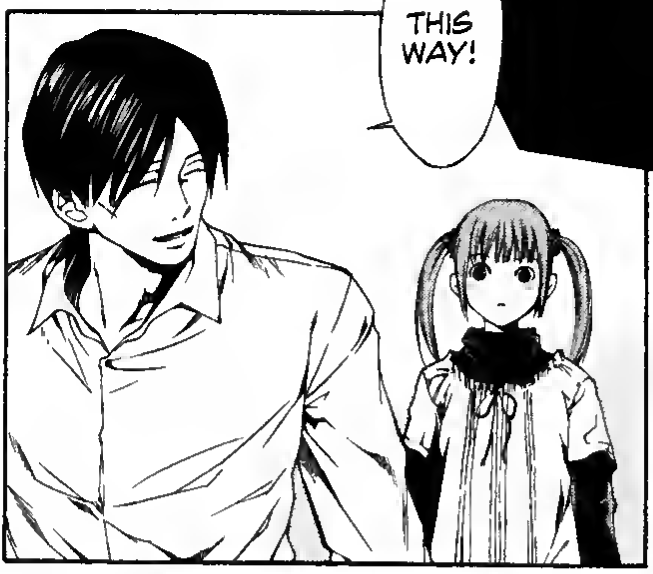

THE RANSOM MONEY WAS IN THERE.
BLACK BAG GARBAGE ISN'T COLLECTED IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

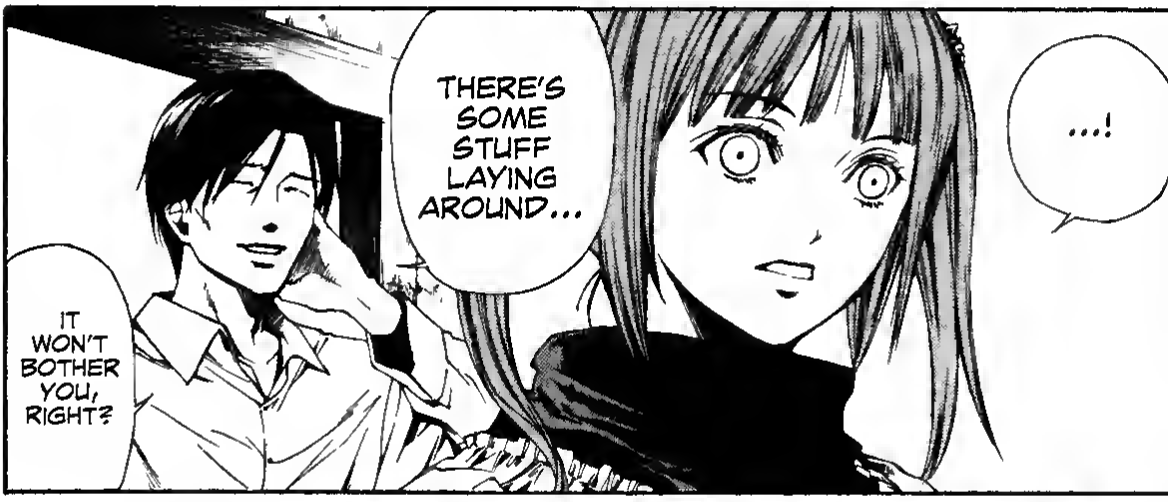

AND BECAUSE YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GARBAGE.
NO ONE NOTICED, BECAUSE YOU WERE OFTEN SEEN WITH GARBAGE BAGS...

I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU'D CONFESS OR NOT...
WE FOLLOWED THE PROGRESS OF THE INVESTIGATION FROM AFAR. I DIDN'T GIVE MY NEW ADDRESS TO ANYONE.
IN THE LAST TEN MONTHS,

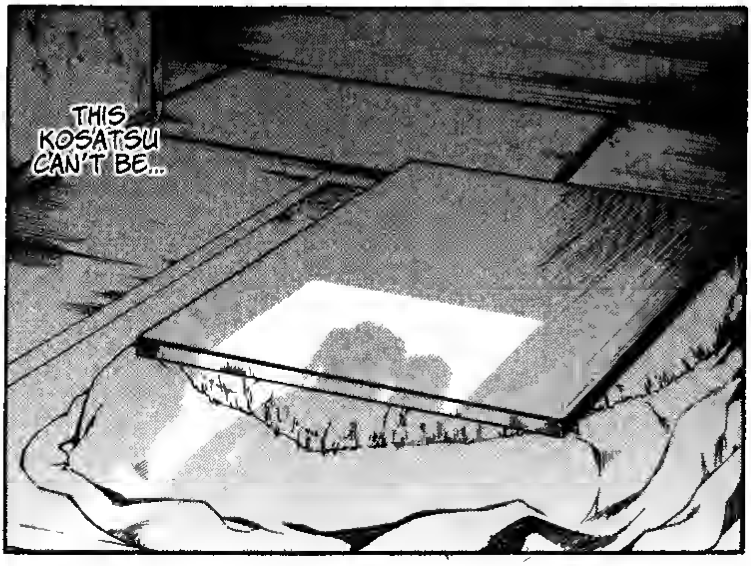
THEN I DARED...
TO GIVE YOU MY ADDRESS ON THAT POST-CARD.
I UNDER-STOOD...
THAT YOU DIDN'T PLAN TO TELL ANYONE.
BUT THE TRUTH WAS NEVER DISCOVERED.
ALSO...
EVERY-THING TURNED OUT WELL, APART FROM THE LOST MONEY.
SINCE I WAS RETURNED SAFELY,
NO NEED TO GET UP. I'LL SHOW HER.
IT'S ALREADY LATE. PLEASE STAY WITH US! WE HAVE A SPARE ROOM.
THEN I'LL...
NOPE.
FOR THE SUGA-WARAS.
30 MILLION ISN'T A LOT

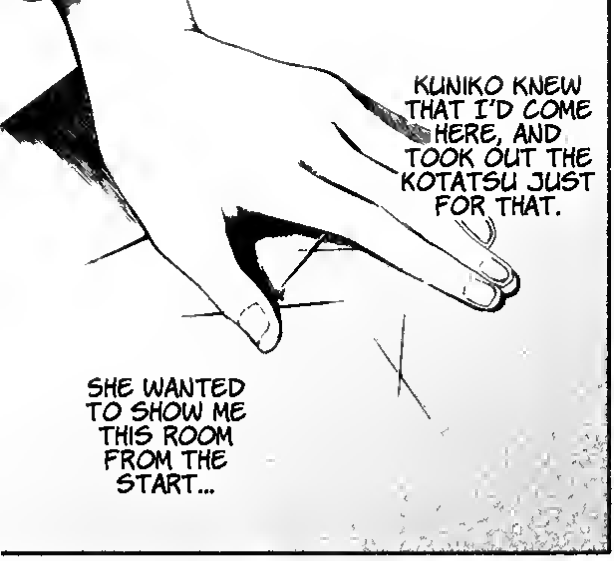

IT'S THIS ROOM.

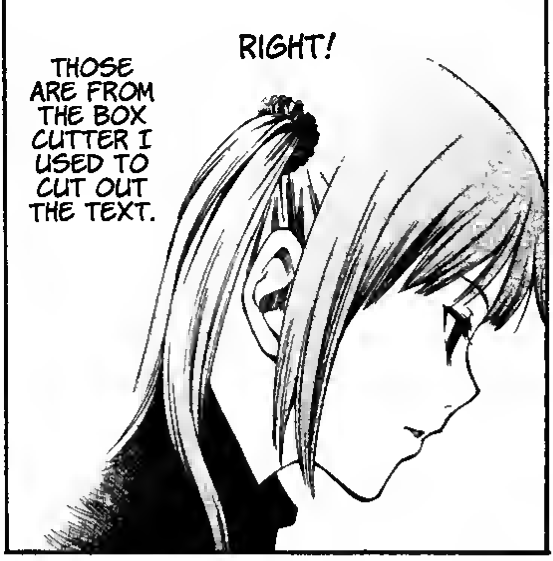

THIS WAY!


IT WON'T BOTHER YOU, RIGHT?
THERE'S SOME STUFF LAYING AROUND...
...!

THESE SCRATCHES...


THIS KOSATSU CAN'T BE...

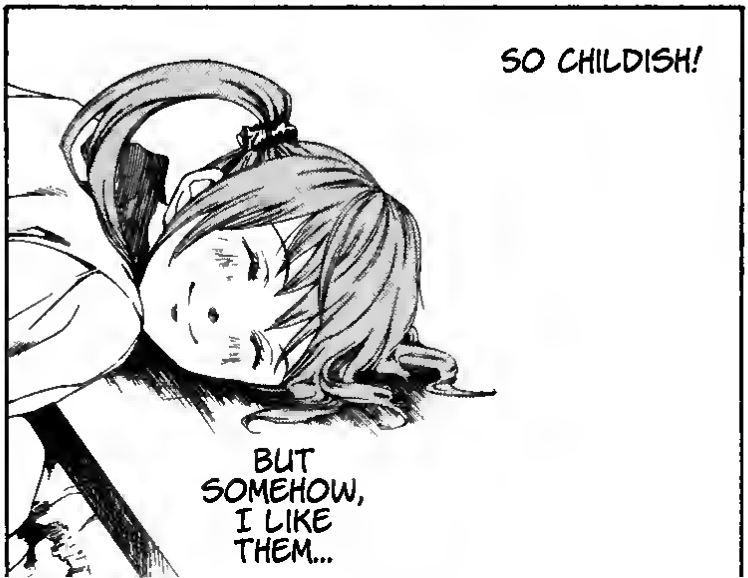

KUNIKO KNEW THAT I'D COME HERE, AND TOOK OUT THE KOTATSU JUST FOR THAT.
SHE WANTED TO SHOW ME THIS ROOM FROM THE START...


RIGHT!
THOSE ARE FROM THE BOX CUTTER I USED TO CUT OUT THE TEXT.

COULDN'T YOU GIVE ME A BIGGER, BETTER ROOM?
WHAT THE HELL!
DO YOU LIKE IT?

I'LL CALL YOU FOR DINNER!
MAYBE TEN SQUARE METRES ARE TOO BIG FOR YOU...

I FEEL LIKE A PRISONER!


SO CHILDISH!
BUT SOMEHOW, I LIKE THEM...

HOW WAS IT...
10 MONTHS AGO...
AND SLEPT STUCK BETWEEN THE KOTATSU AND THE WALL.
I CAREFULLY GLANCED THROUGH A GAP IN THE WINDOW...
I DIDN'T WONDER AT ALL ABOUT THE LOW CEILING?
I HELD A FOOLISH GRUDGE AGAINST KYOUKO.
I WAS ANGRY BECAUSE I HEARD PAPA'S LAUGHING VOICE DESPITE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS DAUGHTER.
THEN I SENT THE RANSOM NOTE...
I WAS SO NARROW-MINDED THAT I COULD ONLY FEEL SAFE WHEN PAPA WORRIED ABOUT ME.

THE CALM EVENINGS I SPENT WITH KUNIKO IN HER TINY ROOM...

IT WAS AS IF NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO DISCOVER ITS EXISTENCE...

IT WAS A SECRET YOU WOULDN'T TELL ANYONE.

KUNIKO'S ROOM WAS THAT SMALL AND COZY.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE SAME IN MAMA'S WOMB.

BEFORE I FELL ASLEEP...

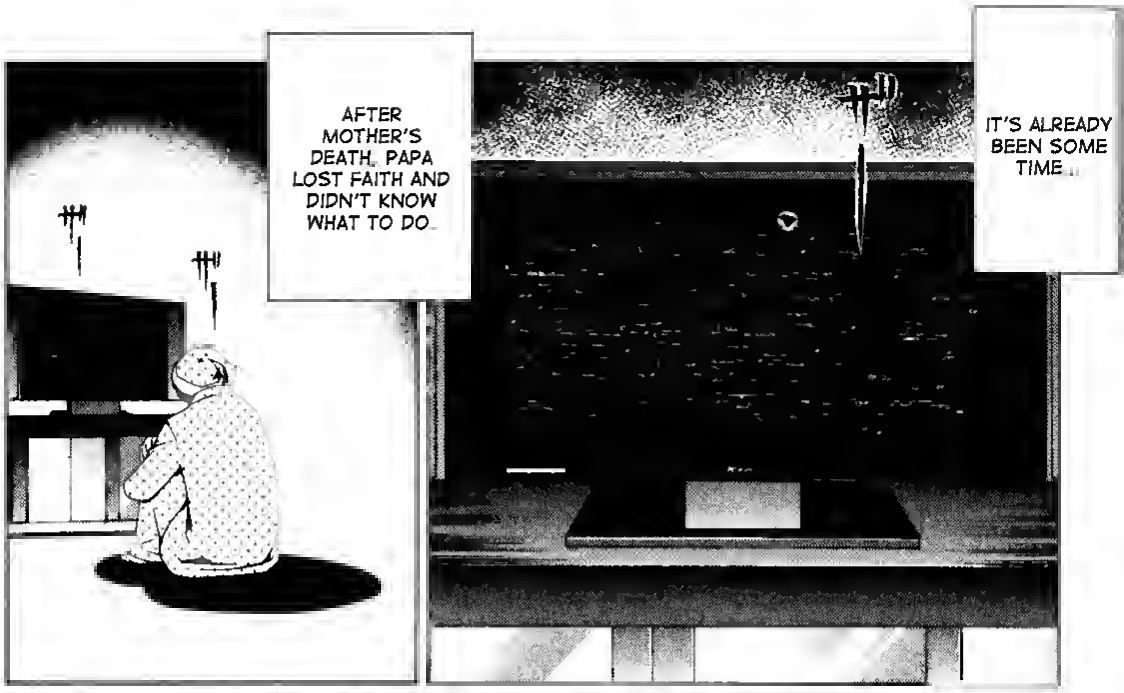
I PRAYED FOR KUNIKO.

MAY YOU SHOWER THE BABY IN YOUR BELLY WITH GREAT LOVE AND CARE!
I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T RAISE IT
TO BE A CHILD AS UNGRATEFUL AS I WAS BACK THEN...

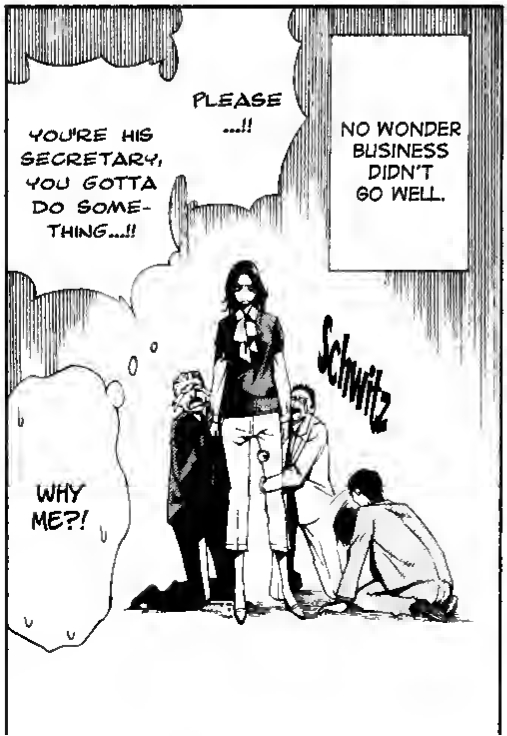
Shissou Holiday
Story by Otsuichi
Art by Kiyohara Hiro
A Village Idiot Scanlation

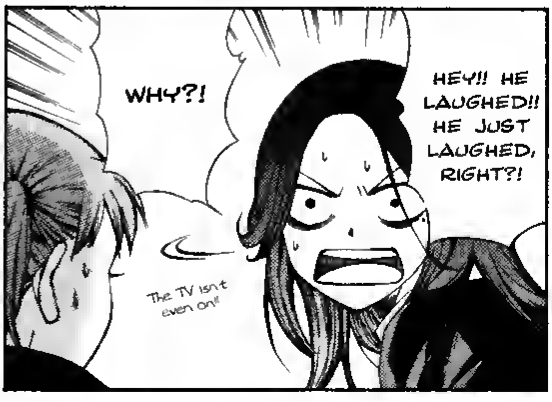
Translator: Eito
Editor: Derek
Redrawer: Elcausa
Quality Checker: ZeroDC

I'M BACK!
OH!! THAT'S REALLY GREAT!
NICE WORK!
REALLY?
I DON'T KNOW THAT, I THINK IT'S FROM SOME FAMOUS DESIGNER.
A CUSTOMER?!
YOU'VE DONE...
...ALL THAT BY YOURSELF?!
.....
THE HOBBY PAPA STARTED YEARS AGO, IS COMPLETELY IN NOW
WELL, I'M PUTTING QUITE A BIT OF WORK ON MYSELF, TOO...
Ha ha ha ha


AFTER MOTHER'S DEATH, PAPA LOST FAITH AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN SOME TIME...

CAN'T WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
HE'S ALREADY BEEN LIKE THAT FOR A WEEK!
.....


PLEASE ...!!
YOU'RE HIS SECRETARY, YOU GOTTA DO SOME-THING...!!
NO WONDER BUSINESS DIDN'T GO WELL.
Schnitz
WHY ME?!


WHY?!
HEY!! HE LAUGHED!! HE JUST LAUGHED, RIGHT?!
The TV isn't even on!

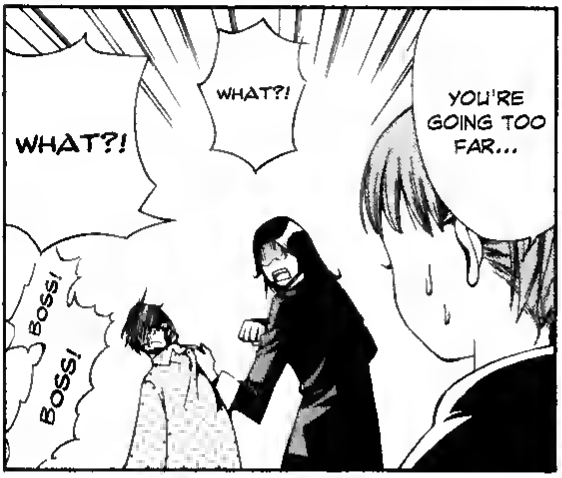
MR. DIRECTOR...
...PLEASE COME TO WORK AGAIN!

MY STOMACH HURTS...
YOU SAID THAT YESTER-DAY!!
AH, THEN IT'S A HEADACHE!
"THEN" ...?!

I'M SORRY TO ALL OF YOU...
.....
BUT PLEASE LET ME LET MYSELF GO FOR A BIT.

SHE HIT HIM!!!!
THAT'S ENOUGH!!!!
ひいいいいっ

ERI-SAN...


WHAT?!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR...
BOSS!
BOSS!

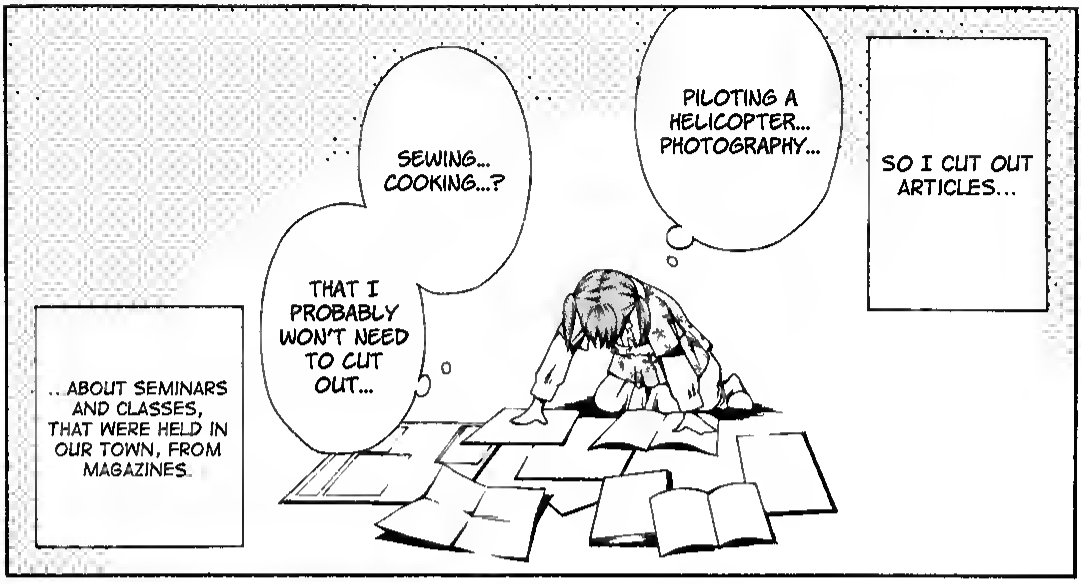
NAO-CHAN'S SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THAT!!
THAT'S NOT HOW A FATHER SHOULD ACT..!!

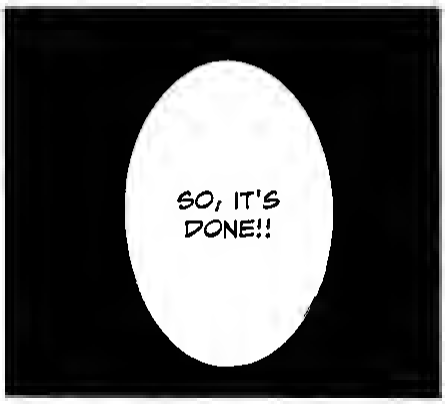
AND THEN...

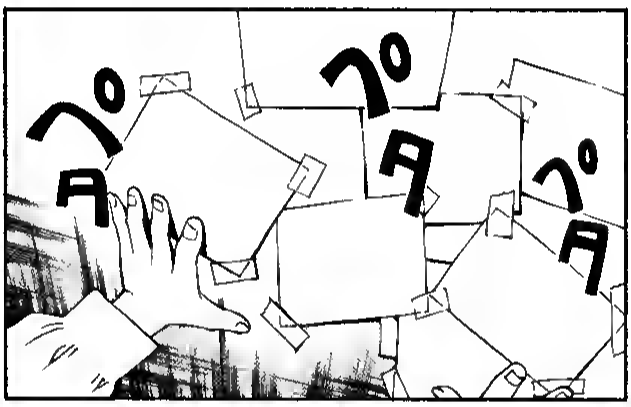
THAT'S IT!!!!

HM?
SO, TODAY'S TOPIC IS...

Stop idling at home all the time!!
~Step back into a social life!~

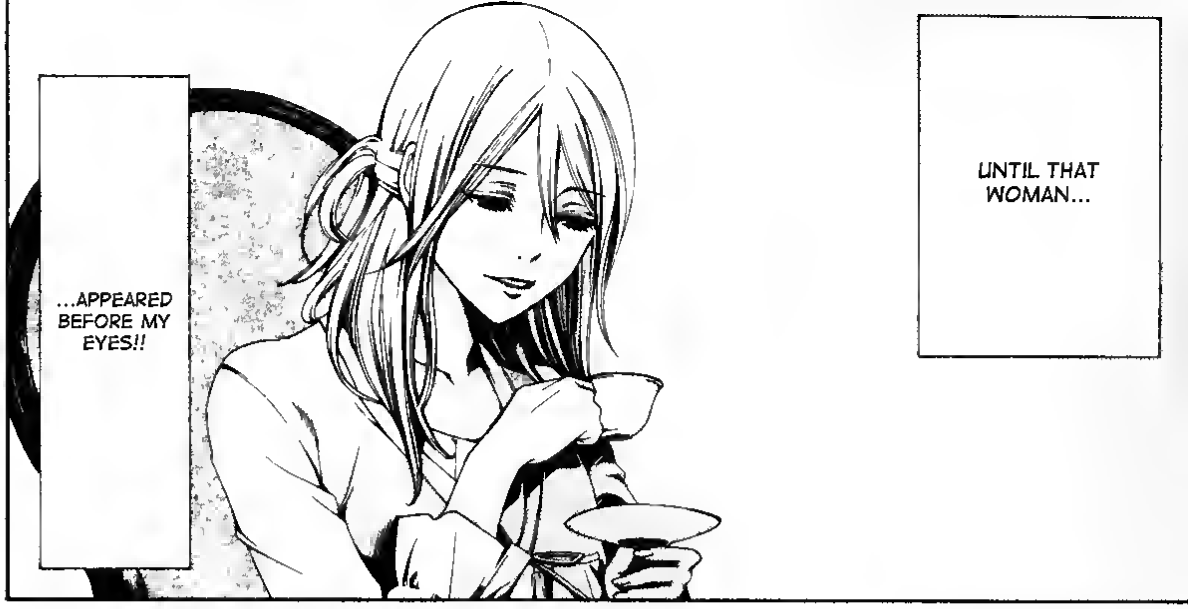

..ABOUT SEMINARS AND CLASSES, THAT WERE HELD IN OUR TOWN, FROM MAGAZINES.
THAT I PROBABLY WON'T NEED TO CUT OUT...
SEWING... COOKING...?
PILOTING A HELICOPTER... PHOTOGRAPHY...
SO I CUT OUT ARTICLES...

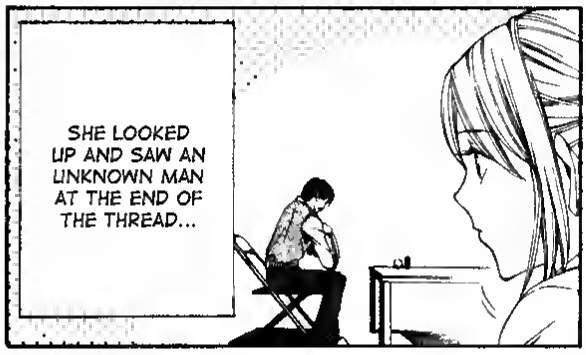

SO, IT'S DONE!!

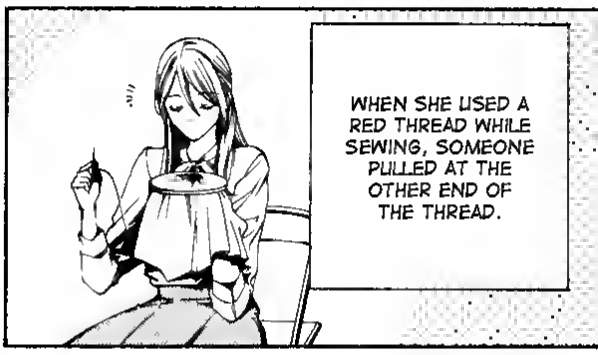


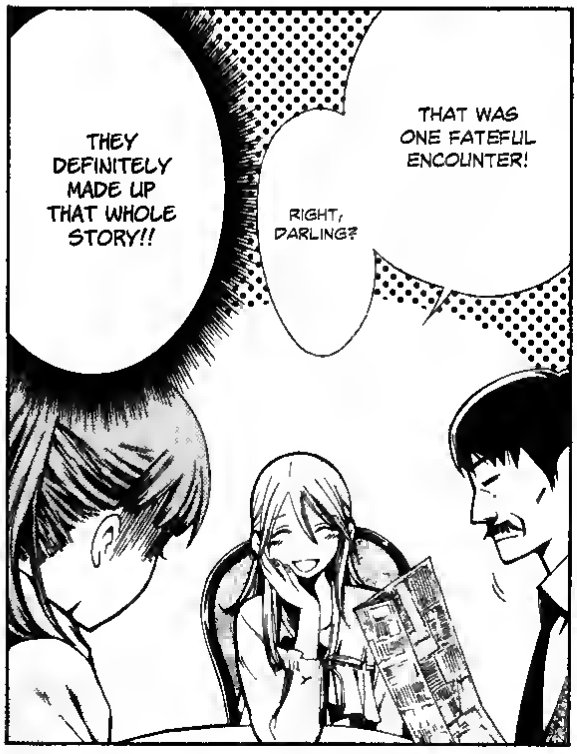
PAPA WILL TAKE THE CLASSES, THAT ARE HIT BY THE DART!!!
NOW I JUST GOTTA THROW A DART...

EH!
FLY!!!

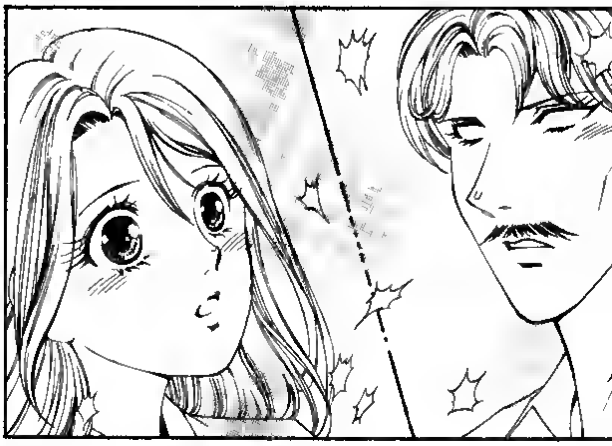

...APPEARED BEFORE MY EYES!!
UNTIL THAT WOMAN...


SHE LOOKED UP AND SAW AN UNKNOWN MAN AT THE END OF THE THREAD...


WHEN SHE USED A RED THREAD WHILE SEWING, SOMEONE PULLED AT THE OTHER END OF THE THREAD.


THEY DEFINITELY MADE UP THAT WHOLE STORY!!
THAT WAS ONE FATEFUL ENCOUNTER!
RIGHT, DARLING?

Huh?
AND IT WAS EXACTLY THAT MAN...



Greetings, I'm Kiyohara Hiro, the mangaka who got the opportunity to draw this. I'm a big fan of Otsuichi's books... I'd love to be his glasses! And out of that pure, but unrefined feeling, this manga came to exist. When I heard about the project, I jumped for joy and broke a leg when coming down... Anyway, I'll always keep this as a great memory! Thank you very much.

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION OF THE MANGA-VERSION OF SHISSHOU HOLIDAY.

Hi! I'm Otsuichi, the author of the novel that was made into this manga.
Shissou Holiday – Missing Holiday, is based on a story I wrote a long time ago.
Back then I was in the fourth year of university and my whole university life was filled with cruelties. Whenever I see a moaning zombie in Resident Evil,
I think "that's me at university", start crying and can't make myself shoot it.

At the time, I wrote the novel version of Shisshou Holiday, which was made into this manga.
How did you like it? Reading it, I just couldn't keep cool. The story I wrote back then has always been awkward to me. I felt like I had to say sorry to the one drawing this.
When I started reading this manga, I was soaked with sweat. With every page my feeling of shame got a bit stronger. When it got too strong, my head began smoking, I fell down, rolled through the room and began running up and down the stairs roaring.

It was too much. I felt like I couldn't finish reading this manga.
I wanted to give up several times, but Kiyohara-sensei's drawings kept me on track.
Her drawings fascinated so much, that I even forgot my shame as the author of this work.
The face of the protagonist, when she shouts 'I've got an idea!', totally convinced me,
you literally see the sally (/brainwave).

When I see that face, I don't care about the story anymore.
When I finished reading the manga, I wanted to read more of Kiyohara-sensei's works.

And one day my editor told me: "Kiyohara's next manga will be another interpretation
of one of your books, if you don't mind. Which of your works would you
like to read as a manga?" I answered: "I think I'd like to read a manga adaption of
Ushinawareru Monogatari." (It's a short story; A long monologue of a bedridden old man)
But that was refused directly. I think that was a wise decision.
Anyway, I'm so excited to read Kiyohara-sensei's next manga.

Thank you very much everyone, that bought this manga.